

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Daily Coal Report - Wednesday 28 November 1984

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	<u>Number</u>
(i) Working normally	46
(ii) Turning some coal	16
(iii) Some men present	75
(iv) On strike/picketed out	37

Bold (Lancashire) has moved to category (i). Darfield (Yorkshire) has moved from category (iv) to (iii).

By 5.00 pm a further 273 new faces had returned (compared with 824 last Wednesday). This brings the weekly total to 1,652 and the total since 5 November to 14,787.

In Scotland 78 new faces reported and in the North East 49. Detailed area attendance figures were as follows:-

Scotland	(24 hour total)	2,129
North East	(morning shift)	3,009
Yorkshire	(morning shift)	2,310
North Derbyshire	(24 hour total)	4,597
Western	(24 hour total)	11,051
South Wales	(morning shift)	127
Kent	(morning shift)	110

Coal Movements

Yesterday was a good day: 191,000 tonnes were moved.

37 coal trains ran.

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Law and Order

The usual skirmishing, but no reports of major violence today.

TUC

It is not clear why Scargill failed to appear at last night's meeting between the NUM and TUC.

Statements from a number of the TUC's leading personalities, made after today's General Council meeting, suggest a TUC initiative for fresh talks may be imminent. There is no information on the form this will take.

(I spoke to Mr Walker who has received no approach. All the signs are that the TUC is floundering, or in Mr Walker's words "sounding out in all directions".

NUM/Labour Party

The Labour Party National Executive today called for a "top level" meeting to "clear up misunderstandings and to consider joint action" over the coal dispute.

High Court

The sequestrators reported to the High Court today that they had now traced and frozen nearly £8 million of NUM funds in accounts in Dublin, Luxembourg and Zurich.

NCB (Enterprise) Ltd

It was announced today that the cash available to this company to support job creation initiatives in mining areas is being doubled from £5 million to £10 million, with the prospect of further increases when the need arises.

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NCB accounting methods and pit closures

There has been some media comment about the article by six accounting academics, which was withdrawn from yesterday's "Accountancy" magazine and which criticised the Coal Board's internal accounting procedures. The authors argue, inter alia, that the Board look only at historic not forecast performance in considering closures. The Board say these arguments are simplistic and incoherent. In their evaluations they do take account of many factors including future prospects. They believe the authors' calculations are erroneous in methodology and conclusion.

Line to Take

On a day when the cash available to NCB (Enterprise) for job creation in mining communities is doubled, those communities should consider carefully who is really looking after their interests: the Coal Board who are offering the best package deal since nationalisation, or the left wing thugs who are wreaking havoc and violence.

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