

Prime Minister (2) *WPA*

Daily Coal Report - Monday 21 January 1985

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	<u>Number</u>
(i) Working normally	49
(ii) Turning some coal	24
(iii) Some men present	77
(iv) On strike/picketed out	24

WPA

Wolstanton and Holditch (Western area) have moved into category (i). Denby Grange (Barnsley) has moved into category (ii). Markham (South Wales), Cadeby and Kilnhurst (South Yorkshire) have moved into category (iii).

The return to work accelerated sharply today. By 6.30 pm 1,847 new faces had reported, compared to 1,329 last Monday. Although not quite a record - 2,282 returned on Monday 19 November - the figure exceeded Coal Board expectations. Predictably, the NUM leadership returned to the charge that the Board were falsifying their figures.

The significant increase in attendances in the North East and Yorkshire brings nearer the prospect that further pits may soon start turning coal. Ellington pit in the North East is thought to be close to this.

Area attendances were as follows:-

			<u>Change on</u> <u>last Monday</u>
Scotland	(24 hr attendance)	3,635	+ 633
North East	(24 hr attendance)	5,096	+ 934
Yorkshire	(24 hr attendance)	4,482	+ 666
North Derbyshire	(24 hr attendance)	5,727	+ 456
Western	(24 hr attendance)	6,412	+ 43
South Wales	(morning shift)	288	+ 94
Kent	(morning shift)	137	+ 13

Coal Movements

865,000 tonnes were moved last week, of which 555,000 went to the CEGB. Although lower than of late, these figures mainly reflect operating difficulties caused by bad weather. Only some 10,000 tonnes were lost because of the rail dispute.

163 coal trains ran last week.

Law and Order

Generally quiet.

NUM

NUM leaders had informal talks with Coal Board officials today. There was no evidence that the union was now prepared to negotiate constructively on the crucial issues, and therefore no progress. Scargill, Heathfield and MacGahey later met the TUC.

Mr Kinnock said today that the Labour Party would continue working together with TUC officials to try and get talks re-opened.

High Court

The hearing has opened into the claim by a striking Notts miner that the Government has acted unlawfully in cutting supplementary benefit payments to strikers' families.

Line to Take

The return to work has significantly accelerated. There could be no clearer sign that miners are rejecting Scargill and all he stands for. Those miners remaining on strike should consider

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carefully how much more they stand to lose by this, and how much they and their families could gain by an immediate return to work.

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