

Prime Minister ②

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Daily Coal Report - Thursday 31 January 1985

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	<u>Number</u>
(i) Working normally	49
(ii) Turning some coal	27
(iii) Some men present	76
(iv) On strike/picketed out	22

MF

By 6.00 pm 143 new faces had reported. The total for the week so far is 1,377.

Area attendances were as follows:-

			<u>Change on</u> <u>last Thursday</u>
Scotland	(24 hr attendance)	4,162	+ 222
North East	(24 hr attendance)	5,820	+ 389
Yorkshire	(24 hr attendance)	5,526	+ 428
North Derbyshire	(24 hr attendance)	6,538	+ 121
Western	(24 hr attendance)	11,768	+ 138
South Wales	(morning shift)	339	+ 1
Kent	(morning shift)	141	- 5

#### Coal Movements

183,000 tonnes were moved yesterday.

52 coal trains ran.

#### Law and Order

Quieter today than yesterday.

The Home Secretary announced today that between March 13 last year and January 30 1,333 police officers were injured on duties



connected with the dispute.

NUM/NCB Negotiations

Today's exchange of correspondence between the two sides is attached. The union's refusal to agree that uneconomic closures should feature on the agenda for discussions makes the prospects for negotiations bleak, though obviously the Board hope that even at this stage the national executive committee might have a change of heart.

Scargill was tonight reported as saying that the national executive would meet again tomorrow at the request of the TUC.

High Court

The hearing has opened in Dublin into the application by the Receiver to recover NUM funds lodged there.

Line to Take

The Coal Board want negotiations with the NUM that will lead to a settlement of this senseless dispute, and the offer which is on the table is the best since nationalisation. The Board have done everything in their power to encourage the NUM to enter negotiations but the union's refusal to discuss the problems of uneconomic pits - if it is sustained - guarantees only one outcome. If this dispute is not to drag on endlessly, moderate members of the NUM national executive must now speak out and make their views heard. Moderate miners everywhere should show what they think by voting with their feet and returning to work without delay.

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