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Pine Minister

## Daily Coal Report - Thursday 7 February 1985

	<u>Number</u>
(i) Working normally	50
(ii) Turning some coal	29
(iii) Some men present	76
(iv) On strike/picketed out	19

Killoch (Scotland) has moved into category (i).

By 6.00 pm 202 new faces had reported, bringing the total for the week to 3,541.

Today's area attendances were as follows:-

			<u>Change on</u> <u>last Thursday</u>
Scotland	(24 hr attendance)	4,563	+ 401
North East	(24 hr attendance)	7,301	+ 27*
Yorkshire	(24 hr attendance)	6,594	+1068
North Derbyshire	(24 hr attendance)	6,790	+ 252
Western	(24 hr attendance)	11,918	+ 150
South Wales	(morning shift)	378	+ 39
Kent	(morning shift)	168	+ 27

\* Change on yesterday

Coal Movements

187,000 tonnes were moved yesterday.

56 coal trains ran.

Law and Order

Much as yesterday: scattered outbreaks of skirmishing, stone throwing etc.

NUM National Executive Meeting

The presence of the NACODS leaders at this meeting and Scargill's subsequent claim that the conditions being demanded of the NUM by the NCB would effectively negate the NACODS agreement, seem a deliberate attempt to stir up more trouble. At any rate, they diverted the national executive from the more positive thoughts of a return to work being voiced by South Wales NUM leaders yesterday.

This evening the Board put out a statement (copy attached). This reaffirms that the agreement with NACODS stands, that the Board would take no action to negate or endanger the agreement, and that it would not be affected by any eventual settlement with the NUM. It should reassure ordinary NACODS members who may have been disconcerted by the posturing of their (more militant) leaders.

Scargill's other ploy, to demand a public enquiry by ACAS or some other independent body, deliberately overlooks the NUM's earlier refusal to accept the ACAS compromise proposal - and again must be seen as a diversionary tactic.

Line to Take

Mr Scargill's tactics are clear. He is using every manoeuvre to prevent meaningful negotiations with the Coal Board no matter what the cost to miners, their families, and the industry at large.

His claims about the NACODS agreement are completely false. The Coal Board have reaffirmed yet again that it will be honoured in full.

His demand for an independent enquiry is a grotesque deception. He and his fellow militants rejected last October the one

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compromise proposal made by ACAS, and which the Coal Board accepted.

Those miners still on strike must now realise that the path being followed by Mr Scargill leads nowhere. If they continue to strike the financial losses they have already suffered will steadily increase. The misery for their families will increase. The country will continue to get by without them.

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## NCB REAFFIRMS NACODS AGREEMENT

### NUM offer no basis for resuming negotiations

The NCB today, Thursday, reaffirmed all the commitments reached in their recent agreement with the officials' union NACODS - including a re-examination of the colliery review procedure to improve its effectiveness. This procedure recognised that, at the end of discussions, management had the right to take the final decision on closures.

The Board regard it as fair and binding and intend to take no action which would negate or endanger the agreement reached by the two parties. This agreement would not be affected by any eventual settlement with the NUM.

A similar agreement was offered to the NUM last October but it was rejected by the union who decided to continue their strike action.

The NCB are surprised by the NUM's request for ACAS to set up an independent public enquiry into the dispute. In negotiations between NACODS and the Board, ACAS put forward a proposal which sought to bridge the differences between union and management. The two parties accepted that proposal and an agreement with NACODS was reached. In negotiations with the NUM, ACAS also attempted to bridge the differences; the NCB immediately accepted this compromise but the NUM rejected it.

Following today's meeting of the NUM's national executive committee, the Board have again received no indication of any change in the union's policy towards dealing with the main issue in the dispute - the industry's problem of uneconomic capacity.

In the absence of any proposals from the NUM on the central issue and in view of continuing public statements that they would not accept the closure of pits on economic grounds, the NUM have offered the NCB no meaningful basis for resuming negotiations.