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Prime Minister ①

Daily Coal Report - Tuesday 26 February 1985

	<u>Number</u>
(i) Working normally	54
(ii) Turning some coal	26
(iii) Some men present	78
(iv) On strike/picketed out	16

Kinsley (Barnsley) and Lady Winsor (South Wales) have moved from category (iv) to (iii).

Another excellent day. By 6.00 pm 1,464 new faces had reported bringing the total for the week so far to 5,308. The Coal Board announced this afternoon that the number of NUM members not on strike had now risen to 92,000 ie over 49.5 per cent of total NUM membership.

553 of the new faces on the morning shift were in Yorkshire, 318 in the North East and 202 in South Wales.

Area attendances were as follows:-

			<u>Change on</u>
			<u>last Tuesday</u>
Scotland	(24 hr attendance)	5,584	+ 493
North East	(24 hr attendance)	10,360	+ 2,052
Yorkshire	(24 hr attendance)	9,349	+ 1,929
North Derbyshire	(24 hr attendance)	7,085	+ 547
Western	(24 hr attendance)	11,835	+ 142
South Wales	(morning shift)	1,258	+ 780
Kent	(morning shift)	216	+ 37

Coal Movements

The Coal Board confirmed today that just over 1 million tonnes were moved last week - a significant milestone. 648,000 tonnes went to the CEGB.

38 coal trains ran yesterday.

Law and Order

Still generally quiet.

NUM

Scargill's talks with the TUC ended without indication of any new initiatives. Scargill said the union had agreed "to keep in touch" with the TUC.

In the various NUM regions signs of tension and division continue. The Yorkshire area council today decided to continue with the dispute whilst seeking a negotiated settlement. Durham area officials claimed there would be no question of their members going back unless there was a national agreement to end the strike - but a coalfield conference has been called for Friday. The South Wales area president today said he would be calling on the union's national leadership to "appraise the situation in a realistic manner". Delegates from all 28 South Wales pits are also to hold a coalfield conference on Friday.

The Secretary of State for Energy has replied to Mr Heathfield's letter - copy of reply attached.

Rail Unions

The BR management today made a new attempt to halt the ban on coal movements and informed the unions that it will be talking directly to the 3,500 rail staff concerned. Department of Transport advise that the BR management are confident this

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pressure will not create a new flashpoint.

Line to Take

Over 49 per cent of the NUM membership is now back at work. This is decisive evidence that miners have decided to end this needless dispute, despite all the efforts of Scargill and his fellow extremists to sustain a political confrontation. The record movement of coal achieved last week is further evidence that the end of the strike is now near. Those still on strike can now see that their actions have been futile. To help secure their own future, and the well-being of their families and communities they should return to work tomorrow.

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