

SECRET

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P.01509

PRIME MINISTER

Mr Gregson envisages that MISC 101 would remain in existence for the time being, as a Ministerial forum to discuss this work. It would need to meet only infrequently.

AT 4/3

Lessons of the miners' strike

The question may be raised at this morning's meeting of MISC 101 of whether a study should be undertaken of the lessons of the miners' strike. I am sure that such a study would be valuable covering such matters as endurance, policing, the uses made of the criminal and civil law, and the financial pressures on strikers.

2. If it is agreed that this work should be put in hand, the most convenient machinery for handling it would be the Official Group on Coal (MISC 57) which I chair and which did the earlier studies on withstanding a miners' strike. Soundings last week suggest that this arrangement would be acceptable to officials of the departments mainly concerned.

3. You will no doubt wish to mention this to the Secretary of State for Energy and check whether he is agreeable to the matter being handled in this way.

PLG

P L GREGSON

4 March 1985

SECRET

Roy Hattersley BBC news
Sunday 3 March

"I'm not suggesting, any more than I've ever condoned violence, that men who've been guilty of acts of grievous bodily harm should be pardoned and forgiven".

Neil Kinnock

News at One

Monday 4 March

KINNOCK BACKS PARTIAL AMNESTY

LABOUR LEADER NEIL KINNOCK SAID TODAY THERE COULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR THOSE MINERS CONVICTED OF "VICIOUS CRIMES" DURING THE DISPUTE.

BUT, IN AN INTERVIEW RECORDED FOR ITN'S NEWS AT ONE, MR KINNOCK SAID A "COMMONSENSE APPROACH" TO GIVING AN AMNESTY TO MOST MINERS SHOULD BE ADOPTED THROUGH THE MINING INDUSTRY'S DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES.

"THAT IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE WAY TO DEAL WITH THOSE SACKED OR SUSPENDED," HE SAID. THIS SHOULD BE ADOPTED "IN ALL CASES OTHER THAN THOSE GUILTY OF SERIOUS CRIMES AGAINST PEOPLE OR PROPERTY."

HE SAID: "CLEARLY, NO ONE WILL GIVE SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF VICIOUS CRIMES - THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT. BUT THAT DOES NOT COVER MORE THAN A TINY MINORITY.

"THE REMAINDER ARE GUILTY, IF THAT IS THE APPROPRIATE WORD, OF EXTREMELY PETTY OFFENCES AND THAT DOES NOT JUSTIFY DISMISSAL."

MR KINNOCK ALSO SAID THAT A NEGOTIATED END TO THE DISPUTE WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE, BUT THE NACODS AGREEMENT STILL PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR A WAY FORWARD.

NUM DISPUTE: KEY FACTS

PITS WORKING

| | <u>Nov 2</u> | <u>Jan 4</u> | <u>Today (4 March)</u> |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Working Normally | 45 | 47 | 54 |
| Turning Some Coal | 10 | 24 | 26 |
| Some men | 26 | 68 | 81 |
| Idle | 93 | 35 | 13 |
| NUM not on strike | 53,300 | 70,000 | almost 97,000 |
| | (28%) | (37%) | (52.9%) |

EX STRIKERS RETURNING

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Start of dispute - end October | 5,880 | |
| November - December 1984 | 16,868 | |
| 1985 to date | 29 525 | (890 today) |
| | 52,273 | |

COLLIERY FACES LOST

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Producing | 38 |
| Salvage | 22 |
| Development | 1 |

In addition a further 80 faces are causing concern.

WAGES LOST

Per miner £8884. In the industry as a whole £803 million.



NUM WORKING AT BOLSOVER, COVENTRY, IRELAND AND MARKHAM

| <u>Colliery</u> | <u>MP</u> | <u>At Work</u> [*] | <u>% of NUM</u> <u>on books</u> | <u>(% on 21/2)</u> |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Bolsover | Mr Skinner | 829 | 92.0 | (90.7) |
| Coventry | Mr Nellist | 930 | 80.0 | (77.9) |
| Ireland | Mr Benn | 358 | 53.2 | (37.7) |
| Markham | Mr Benn | 1668 | 81.5 | (74.9) |

* Numbers paid by the NCB last week.



AMNESTIES IN 1972 and 1974

Line to take

- No comparison can be made between events following the strikes in the early 1970s and the position now.
- Those strikes were official and involved all members of the NUM; there were therefore none of the acts of intimidation and violence against other miners that we have seen in this dispute.

Background

The NCB have no figures available centrally on the numbers of men dismissed or reinstated as a result of the strikes in 1972 and 1974.

Those strikes were "all in/all out" disputes and of short duration. The level of violence was much lower and there was not the friction between different groups of miners that there has been in the past year.

During this dispute 709 men have been dismissed by the NCB.

A breakdown of charges brought in the dispute to the end of February is attached.

Penalties of dispute

THERE have been 9,750 arrests, 10,335 charges relating to the pits strike and 7,874 people charged, according to the Home Office; 5,528 cases have been dealt with, leading to 4,112 convictions and 1,416 acquittals.

There have been 152 prison sentences and 61 other sentences involving some form of custody before or after trial.

The following table shows the number and nature of charges faced by miners by the end of February.

| Offence | Number |
|---|---------------|
| Section 5 of the Public Order Act (conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace) | 4,089 |
| Obstruction of a police constable | 1,682 |
| Obstruction of the highway | 640 |
| Criminal damage | 1,015 |
| Criminal damage with intent to endanger life | 4 |
| Arson | 15 |
| Assaulting a police constable | 359 |
| Assault occasioning actual bodily harm | 424 |
| Grievous bodily harm | 39 |
| Theft | 349 |
| Resisting arrest | 19 |
| Offensive weapon | 49 |
| Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act 1985 | 275 |
| Burglary | 31 |
| Handling stolen property | 1 |
| Drug offence | 1 |
| Breach of the peace | 207 |
| Breach of bail conditions | 32 |
| Attempt (various offences) | 18 |
| Drunkenness | 62 |
| Unlawful assembly | 509 |
| Railway offences | 20 |
| Affray | 21 |
| Riot | 137 |
| Incitement | 1 |
| Reckless driving | 16 |
| Threat/conspiracy to cause damage | 13 |
| Explosive offence | 3 |
| Threats to kill | 5 |
| Unlawful imprisonment | 2 |
| Other offences | 294 |
| Murder | 3 |
| Total | 10,335 |