

SECRET AND PERSONAL

File 16

Daily Coal Report - Thursday 29 November 1984

	<u>Number</u>
(i) Working normally	46
(ii) Turning some coal	18
(iii) Some men present	73
(iv) On strike/picketed out	37

High Moor (N Derby) and Killoch (Scotland) have moved from category (iii) to category (ii). In yesterday's report the number of pits turning some coal should have read 16, with the addition of Bold (Lancashire) to that category.

A further 179 new faces have returned today, bringing the weekly total to 1,842 and the total since 5 November to 14,998.

Regional Breakdown

			Change on Yesterday
Scotland	(24 hour total)	2,187	+ 58
North East	(morning shift)	3,044	+ 35
Yorkshire	(morning shift)	2,434	+ 24
North Derbyshire	(24 hour total)	4,631	+ 34
Western	(24 hour total)	11,113	+ 62
South Wales	(morning shift)	124	- 3
Kent	(morning shift)	111	+ 1

Coal Movements

Yesterday around 192,000 tonnes were moved.

40 coal trains ran - the best Wednesday for 5 weeks

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Law and Order

South Wales police arrested 40 pickets for alleged stone throwing incidents against an M4 lorry convoy near Bridgend this morning.

11 pickets were arrested and 2 policemen taken to hospital after 250 striking miners blocked the route to Merthyr Vale colliery, near Aberfan in South Wales, where 2 men went into work.

There were no serious incidents elsewhere.

Pit Accident

A miner was killed in an underground accident at Little colliery near Cannock in Staffordshire today. Mr Trevor Prince, 48, had worked in the industry all his life.

NUM Executive

The NUM Executive met this morning in Sheffield, although Peter Heathfield and Mick McGahey were not present. Apparently Mr Scargill told the executive that he had little information about the union's recent discussions with the TUC. Before going into the meeting Mr Ted McKay, a member of the executive and full time North Wales area agent, said:

"People say they are going to put petrol through your letterbox and things of that nature. Is this what the union is all about? That was not done in the name of the NUM. That was done in the name of the president of the NUM. I believe the time has come for men of reason to take over because violence is killing the case for coal. It is totally irresponsible to put members' money and the union in jeopardy. It is not our money, its the members' money and their forefathers money. Are we responsible if we squander their money if it could have been avoided?"

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McGahey Reveals NCB Plan for Scotland

Mick McGahey claimed at a miners' rally in Partick, Glasgow, today that documents had come into his possession which indicated that the NCB was planning to 'decimate' the mining industry in Scotland. These documents appear to be similar to those relating to the North East, which were released by Mr Scargill a few weeks ago. This afternoon the NCB's Scottish Area Headquarters issued a statement saying that the documents appeared to be part of a series of ten planning drafts, none of which were definitive. They added:

"The major part of the Scottish coalfield would be producing coal in the 21st century. Jobs will continue to be available for everyone who wishes to stay in the industry. The balance in the immediate supply and demand for coal can be achieved without hardship, as more than 3,000 men have already applied to take advantage of the Board's generous voluntary redundancy terms".

Sequestration of NUM Funds

A Luxembourg judge today unblocked £4.38 million of NUM funds deposited in a Luxembourg bank. Only £250,000 - intended to cover the £200,000 fine imposed in October, plus costs - remains frozen. Price Waterhouse's request for the funds to remain blocked until High Court judgement documents arrived from London was rejected. The NUM, through its nominees, is now free to move the £4.38 million out of Luxembourg if it wishes.

Working Miners' Cases Adjourned

Preliminary moves in two High Court actions by working miners against the NUM were adjourned this morning to give the NUM time to file fresh evidence. Sixteen working miners, led by Nottinghamshire moderate Colin Clarke, are seeking court orders appointing a receiver to run the national union and making the 25 members of the national executive personally liable for the £200,000 contempt fine. The receivership action was adjourned until next Thursday 6 December, and the other action until Friday 14 December.

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Line to Take

See attached.

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FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Coal Minister David Hunt said today (November 29)

"It is simply pathetic of Mr Scargill to pretend the return to work has not been a success, but it is no wonder Mr Scargill is running scared after such a disastrous month. Because of his actions, union funds have been sequestered, and the country is filled with distaste at the monstrous violence perpetrated against working miners.

"More than 15,000 former striking miners have returned to work this month alone, 2½ times as many as in the whole of the previous eight months. And more men will return to work this week than in August, September and October put together.

"As Mr Scargill knows, the only reason less men have been returning this week is due to the disgusting brutality of masked thugs who attack people in their own homes. Is Mr Scargill saying that violence pays? He knows that the real issue is that if he gave his members the opportunity to vote, if he gave them back the right to a democratic ballot, then they would vote to go back to work.

"Let him look at the facts: Three weeks ago, just 27 men were working in the North East - today the figure is over 3000. In Yorkshire, the number has grown from 138 to nearly 2500. Three weeks ago, 2 men were at Bersham colliery; today the pit is working normally on all faces, with 90 per cent of its miners in attendance.

"And at the beginning of the strike, there were miners at just 46 pits; today there are miners at 147.

"Let Mr Scargill answer this question for the country: More than 65,000 miners are not on strike - how many more would be back if it had not been for the brutality of last weekend."

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