

SECRET AND PERSONAL

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Daily Coal Report - Wednesday 31 October 1984

	<u>Number</u>	<u>plus on holiday</u>
(i) Working normally	45	-
(ii) Turning some coal	10	-
(iii) Some men present	25	-
(iv) On strike/picketed out	94	-

Further encouraging increases today:

Scotland: (morning shift): 365 New Record 5 up on yesterday

Yorkshire: (morning shift): 96 New Record 3 more than yesterday. Seventh consecutive daily increase.

N Derbyshire: (24 hr figure): 1,137 New Record 22 more than yesterday

Western: (morning shift): 5,414 New Record 41 more than yesterday

(24 hr figure): 8,873 282 more than yesterday - second highest figure ever (record 8,909 on 19 October)

Coal Movements

175,000 tonnes were moved yesterday.

45 coal trains ran - a good total.

Law and Order

Once again the main incidents were in Yorkshire. 3,000 pickets at Kiveton Park pit threw stones and fireworks at police. 2,000 pickets gathered at Denby Grange and a further 1,200 at Allerton Bywater.

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Two men who tried to sabotage the power supply to the Orgreave coking plant are missing, feared dead, following an explosion.

NUM/NCB Negotiations

At the time of writing both sides were still at ACAS. There was no indication of progress.

"Hit-list" - Scargill's claim

Scargill's claim that the Board has a further hit list of pits to be closed in the North East is, as usual, a gross distortion. The document in question, prepared by mining engineers, is an analysis of different options. The two pages mentioned by Scargill represent a forecast of the effect of a "do nothing" scenario. In those circumstances output would inevitably decline. In fact, the intention is to maintain area output at the type of level that exists today.

The Opposition jumped on the bandwagon with a letter from Mr Orme. This letter, together with the text of Mr Walker's reply, is attached.

Mr Kirk

Press reports today have claimed that the Board's Director of Information, Mr Kirk, has been dismissed. A Board spokesman has said Kirk is on vacation.

CBI Quarterly Survey

It is encouraging that this survey confirms that the coal dispute continues to have little direct effect on manufacturing output.

Line to Take

As yesterday.

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