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Daily Coal Report - Tuesday 18 September 1984

Pit categories

	<u>Number</u>	<u>plus on holiday</u>
(i) Working normally	42	(3)
(ii) Turning some coal	8	(1)
(iii) Some men present	17	-
(iv) On strike/picketed out	103	-

In Scotland Bilston Glen has returned from its rest day. 164 reported this morning - a new record.

In the North East both Wilkinson's are in at Easington. 16 reported at Wearmouth, despite action by the NUM to expel 3 men from the union. 1 NUM man and a clerk have reported at Ashington stores today for the first time. The single miner who reported at Dawdon pit yesterday is unlikely to work today: there are 400 pickets at the gate.

In Yorkshire 35 men have reported (Allerton Bywater - 5; Kellingley - 2; Gascoigne Wood - 1, elsewhere in Selby - 5; Yorkshire Main - 5; Carcroft - 1; Markham - 2; Brodsworth - 1; Kiveton Park - 8; Silverwood - 2, Brookhouse - 3).

In North Derby 226 men have reported at Bolsover, 160 at Shirebrook (a new record) and 150 at Warsop.

In Kent numbers have again risen slightly: there are 7 at Betteshanger and 25 at Tilmanstone.

Coal Movements

141,000 tonnes were moved yesterday - 9,000 tonnes up on last Monday, and 19,000 tonnes up on the previous Monday.

34 coal trains ran.

Law and Order

Picketing is light in Scotland. In the North East picketing is concentrated at Dawdon as mentioned above.

In Yorkshire 3600 pickets were reported to be at Kiveton Park, and at the time of writing there had been 12 arrests.

Industrial Relations

The Coal Board have sent a formal invitation to the pit supervisors union, NACODS, inviting them to a meeting next week. Meanwhile NACODS are pressing ahead with arrangements for their ballot on possible strike action.

The 3 working miners at Wearmouth who have been expelled from the NUM are reported to be considering whether to appeal to the NUM's national executive. As yet, there is no indication whether they will be taking any form of legal action.

In the near future, the power supply unions are to meet the NUM, under TUC auspices, to discuss possible support. Present indications suggest a range of opinion and it is not surprising that David Basnett said this morning that the unions were not aiming to black out Britain in support of the coal strike. As reported yesterday, John Lyons and Eric Hammond of the EETPU have already made their position clear.

Dock Strike

Proposals aimed at ending the dockers strike will be put to a delegate conference in London today. Department of Transport report that the prospects for a settlement seem reasonable.

Line to Take

The Coal Board has made a generous offer. It is time every miner was allowed to vote on this, in an atmosphere free from organised mob violence and intimidation.

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Coal file

17th September 1984

Prime Minister (2)

NACODS BALLOT PAPER

AT
20/19

The question on the NACODS ballot paper is believed to read as follows:

"The NEC unanimously and strongly recommend strike action under Rule 21 on the following grounds and opposes:

1. The Board's cut-back in capacity.
2. The Board's attitude in the implementation of conciliation procedures.

and calls for the complete rejection of the Board's guidelines of August 15".

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