

Friday

18 February 1972

Disturbed weekend. Arrived home. Within 5 minutes summons to 10 Downing Street emergency Cabinet. Miners' executive rejects Wilberforce 14-11. Then in St. James's Sq. Only 14 days more coal. Thereafter 25 per cent [*Generating*] capacity only (subject to picketing, real possibility) no domestic stock industrial useable. Abyss. Cabinet indecisive divided. Try to tell them that we must stick to Wilberforce or show white flag. Carrington made decisive comment. We can not [*bin*] Wilberforce with the ink scarcely dry on the report. I said we should last no more than 6 weeks if we gave in. On the other hand those who were for a strong line do not face the fact that [*limited*] stock was not the picketing [*but*] the stocks of [*coal*] *bv* [*generators*].

Cabinet dispersed in order to allow Miners' executive and NCB to see P.M. Dinner Savoy Grill Carrington W. Whitelaw Barber. (Carrington paid!) Oysters, grilled Salmon, white Burgundy (excellent).

Return 11 Downing Street. They were still at it. Eventually (just after midnight) learned Gormley had been said to by P.M: that no more was forthcoming. Facesaver from NCB consolidating bonus shift. Got back home 0230.

We have avoided a great evil but Wilberforce is bad enough.

Djb w/c. arrived home. w/ 5 mins sms to DS my/ Cab
 Plus xkr yk W'fome 14-11. On n S: James Square. nl 14 do
 no coal @ Draft 25% Conakps @ nl (sj to picketing, nl. job).
no dnyk, n/j, useable. abyss @ Cab ndsiv dvi @ try to k @ m
 E w my jk to W'fome or So wi flag @ Carnington ma ds:
 km @ wk n b- W'fome w t ink of skasl dny ot rpo.
 i sd w Ed l/ n mon. butes i/ w ga n @ ot o ha
 Dos how fa jg lni ds fare tjk da t lmt jk 3 n
 t picketing b t jk v ko bu gv.

Kbn dops n O. t lw Mus xkr a NCB
 t see P.M. din Savoy Grill Carnington, W. White lan.
 Barber. (Carnington paid!) Oyster, guinea Salmon, Whi Bungo
 (xl-)

m 11 D.S. Dyo jk attr. v-x (j/ af mdni) @
 Cromley hb salt P.M.: @ Da no mo z jk @
 facesaver fm NCB consolidating bonus Σ f. gtbk ho
 0230.

wv vy a gr enil b W'fome s bd up.

SAT morning

FA kbt.