

166 Workers Walk to Safety Without Injury

BULLETIN

BISHOP, Va. (AP)—Rescuers today found the bodies of 8 of 22 coal miners trapped by an explosion in the Pocahontas Fuel Co.'s Bishop mine No. 34.

BISHOP, Va. (AP)—An unidentified disturbance today trapped 22 miners in a section of the Pocahontas Fuel Co.'s Bishop mine No. 34. The extent of the damage of the condition of the men could not be determined immediately.

The trouble disrupted communications to the section.

Mine officials said 166 other men in the mine when trouble occurred at 8:20 a.m. walked out. None suffered any ill effects.

Roland C. Luther, vice president of the company, at a news conference told newsmen it was "a local disturbance" and occurred in the "dayheading section."

"I prefer not to use the word explosion," said Luther, "because we don't know what it was."

He said, however, the disturbance apparently was not very powerful because it was hardly felt at the elevator shaft a little more than a mile from the scene.

A blast in February 1957 killed 37 miners at the Bishop works on the Virginia-West Virginia border.

Luther said the ventilation system in the mine areas reached by rescuers had not been damaged, indicating the disturbance was not of great a magnitude. He said this gave hopes the trapped men could be reached alive.

Of the 166 miners who escaped, those working closest to the disturbance sealed themselves off but later were removed.

Luther said the disturbance had occurred in the same section but a little further down from the Feb. 4, 1957, explosion scene.

Four rescue squads went down into the mine in relays of two, with about 15 men working at a time.

To get to the disturbance area, rescue teams took the elevator down 200 feet and then had to travel approximately a mile horizontally.