



RESCUED — Three miners are lifted by bucket from the burning Mountaineer Coal Co. No. 9 mine Wednesday near Farmington, W.Va. Some 70 other miners are feared trapped following explosions and fire. (AP Photo)

Mine Rescue Resumes Today . . .

Blasts Trap 78

• **New York Times**

FARMINGTON, W.Va. — Efforts to reach 78 men trapped 600 feet below ground by a soft coal mine explosion were put off Wednesday night until at least Thursday morning as fire and smoke and the danger of further explosions barred waiting rescue teams from the mine portals.

Twenty-one miners of 99 on Wednesday night's midnight to 8 a.m. shift were known to be safe. There has been no contact with any of those still missing.

An explosion at 5:40 a.m. Wednesday shattered the miners' lamp house, where precise records are kept of men going below ground, and it was not until evening that officials of the Consolidation Coal Co. of

Pittsburgh, which owns the huge Farmington No. 9 mine at near-by James Fork, could give an accurate estimate of the number still missing.

The mine here is operated by the Mountaineer Coal Co., a Consol subsidiary.

James McCartney, Consol's personnel and public relations director, said here that a day of telephoned checks to miners' homes in this snow-covered West Virginia bituminous country had produced a list of 78 men still unaccounted for and presumed in the mine. He said this figure was based on later information than another estimate of 70 missing miners given by William Poundstone, Consol's executive vice president.

Hours after the initial explosion and at least three secondary blasts that followed during the

first three hours of the fire, dense black smoke still rose in a column several hundred feet high over the blasted Llewellyn portal, where the missing miners had descended the 600-foot vertical shaft at midnight Tuesday.

Of those known to have survived, eight were hoisted to the surface at mid-morning in an emergency lift rigged at an air-shaft remote from the area of the explosion and fire. Thirteen other miners walked out unharmed after feeling the concussion or receiving telephoned warnings to leave the mine.

The mood here Wednesday night was one of deep pessimism. Mine officials said only two ventilating fans were still running, providing fresh air to sections of the mine not yet involved in the fire.

Monetary Crisis Unsolved . . .

World Bankers Stall

BONN, Germany (AP) — Treasury and central bank officials of the world's 10 richest

attacks on the franc and rising pressure against the dollar and the pound in the second international monetary crisis of 1968

price for \$1 at the close ranged between 4.2948 and 4.2953 Swiss francs, a shade below the floor for government intervention

1968 Consol No 9 Mine Explosion NEWS3

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