

**STOP PRESS**

Talks between NUM and steel union ISTC ended without agreement on June 29th. Moves meanwhile going ahead to tighten blockade and to ensure no steel production. Talks with rail and other transport unions planned to step up action. NUM emphasised at talks that it was in everybody's interests to increase the action. For if British coal industry was cut back it would pave the way for reduced coal traffic by rail and lead to further cuts in British Steel.

Ian MacGregor, who remains a member of the Board of British Steel, believed to be actively involved behind the scenes.

**TIME IS NOW ON OUR SIDE**

The strike pendulum has now securely swung to our territory.

The most crucial date in the calendar — June 21st, the Longest Day — is passed. From here on in, the days get shorter and the nights longer.

We shall be entering autumn in an immensely powerful position with coal stocks at approximately 15m tonnes — well below the 17m

tonne level at which the three-day week was introduced 10 years ago.

No Government — no matter which lunatic runs it — can go into the autumn in such a position. It would be a recipe for the most widespread industrial chaos ever witnessed.

And that is why I repeat what I have said throughout this dispute. Stand firm, hold your nerve, and we shall register the greatest and most far-reaching industrial

**By NUM President ARTHUR SCARGILL**

rial victory this century.

Absolutely no-one can be in any doubt whatever as to what is at stake in this dispute.

MacGregor's statement to Derbyshire directors that he wants to try to smash the NUM indicates his mentality perfectly.

But he is living in a fantasy world.

All he has succeeded in doing is achieving greater levels of unity in the NEC, with the last meeting calling unanimously for his instant dismissal.

But we should never allow MacGregor or any other individual to cloud the essence of our fight.

That essence was brought home to me just a week ago in a special article in a Sunday newspaper.

The paper reported that in Liverpool there are now between 10,000 and 20,000 youngsters on heroin.

The hopelessness and helplessness of unemployment has reduced the flower of a city's youth to the devastating world of hard drugs.

Where once young people could look forward to their working lives with hope, now they see around them the human and physical waste, deliberately created as a matter of Government policy.

It is that which we are fighting against.

I believe there is no-one who can stand aside from that fight in the mistaken belief that if they keep their heads down they will be treated more leniently by this Government.

That is why I say to the steelworkers in particular, join with us. Do not be misled.

**Titanic**

Once the pits have been butchered, attention will once again be turned on your own industry, creating more dole queue fodder. And when that day dawns who will be left to fight together with you?

Before our strike you were already living a highly uncertain existence, not knowing whether your jobs would

survive from one year to the next.

The only way to end that uncertainty is to join with us in fighting for and winning a sound, secure and expanding industrial base in Britain.

And that message can be extended to all groups throughout this country.

The miners of Britain are involved in a titanic struggle to turn the tide of human suffering.

Our heroic young men and the magnificent wives are lighting a beacon for all.

I urge everyone, young, old, man and woman, employed and unemployed, join with us and support us in whatever way you can.

Together we shall lay the foundations for a secure and decent future in which the reality of life becomes worthwhile — not something to escape from on the end of a hypodermic syringe.

**London pride**

A 50,000 turn-out for a mass demonstration in London crowned a highly effective Day of Action in the South East in support of the strike.

Rail transport virtually ground to a halt, three national newspapers failed to appear in the south and the distribution and content of others was severely cut back; thousands of health workers, teachers, office and factory workers joined in the action, making a major impact across the region.

As the London demonstration passed through Fleet Street it was particularly noticeable how hundreds of print workers lined the pavements to applaud the marchers. Many of the print men are deeply disgusted with the anti-miner, one-sided coverage of the dispute.

Also evident was an overwhelming degree of public support in the region. Collecting buckets were full to overflowing in a short time as men and women, young and old, showed their recognition that the miners' fight against mass unemployment and the run-down of Britain is their fight.

**NOW TELL US YOU DEFEND THE RULE OF LAW IN G.B.**



A mounted policeman prepares to bring a truncheon crashing down on the unprotected head of a woman at Orgreave in a scene which could have come straight out of Nazi Germany. The woman's crime? She had called for help for a middle-aged injured miner.

But for the speedy response of another miner who charged Lesley Boulton to the ground, it is certain that she would have suffered serious head injuries.

The action of the miner enabled her to escape with just a scalp graze from the truncheon. Lesley would like the two miners involved to contact her. That contact can be made through *The Miner* by phoning the Editor on 0742 700388.

Meanwhile, this picture, and others on page 7, should alert the whole country to the sickening levels of police violence now in operation.

We ask but one question of the mounted policeman: Is this a picture he would be proud to show his wife and children?

# My salute to the Notts heroes

Sir — I just want to say a few words to the striking Notts miners. I am a simple Yorkshire miner's wife and during my lifetime I may never meet any of you, while my husband has mixed with you often on picket lines.

I just want to say God bless you all. Here in Yorkshire we are all united but you are not, and we understand fully how difficult it must be for

you and your families.

It grieves me to know that you are the ones who are branded as bullies by the press and TV.

My husband has been the victim of police assault on the Orgreave picket line but then he comes home to his friendly townfolk.

You do not. You have enemies in your own camp.

That is why I say you are among the bravest of all. Keep up the good work and never give in.

Mrs. A. Huddleston,  
45 Cromwell Rd, Airedale, Castleford  
P.S. Congratulations to the Editor and all his staff for such excellent cover, and also to all those who are providing such excellent photographs of the true happenings on picket lines.

## Appalled Scotland helps out

Sir — Recently four young Nottingham miners visited our area at our request and we were so concerned by their accounts of harassment and oppression, while on strike that we immediately decided to adopt their town of Retford for the duration of the dispute.

The various strike centres in this area amassed two vanloads of foodstuff and a considerable financial collection and sent our representatives with them to Retford to assist in setting up their strike centre and bank account.

It is our intention to continue to render Retford strike centre as much assistance as is possible and we consider it a privilege to have formed this fraternal association with the striking families of Retford.

Sam Cowie  
Secretary Central Area  
Strike Committee,  
Fishcross Miners  
Welfare,  
Clackmananshire,  
Scotland

## We are with you

Sir — As a Midland wife of a redundant worker, I wish you all best wishes and victory in this fight which is the fight of all workers.

All our prayers and thoughts are with you and with faith and courage you will win through. Don't waver, God bless you all. We are behind you.

Bernice Sadler  
14 Bilberry Drive,  
Valley Farm Estate,  
Rednal, nr. Birmingham

# Who do you think you're kidding, Ian MacGregor

Sir — May I through *The Miner*, address this letter to Ian MacGregor: According to the press and media pits are threatened by 'fire, flood and collapse'. The *Sunday Express* (17/6/84) quotes senior Coal Board officials predicting that 'up to 40 pits and 40,000 jobs will be at risk'. Is this your view Mr MacGregor?

We know that YOU know nothing about the British coal industry, but are all your colleagues equally as ignorant or do they just have convenient memories?

Let's deal with the 'threats' of 'fire, flood and collapse' one at a time.

1. 'Spontaneous combustion is a prime worry' (*Sunday Express* (17/6/84). Spontaneous Combustion (SC) is

the slow oxidation of coal or other carbonaceous materials. The coal is often low rank coal containing pyrites which is left as roof coal. As the coal face advances this roof coal is left to fall in the waste (gob) between the intake and return airways. Roof coal is also left in the pack area.

If there is sufficient air leakage through the waste and the surrounding strata and is of sufficient quantity to feed the oxidation but not of a quantity as to dissipate the heat, then SC is likely to occur. But SC can occur WHETHER THE PIT IS IN PRODUCTION OR AT A STANDSTILL.

The industry has dealt with this problem adequately for many years and is a

world leader in the detection of SC. In fact, there are seven systems or means of detection by the most modern and automatic equipment.

The Board know very well that it is well within the capabilities of the deputies and managers, who are still at work, to deal with this problem.

Fires are fed by oxygen. By temporarily sealing the intake and return airways or by the use of strata injection to prevent air leakage the problem can be controlled. Furthermore, all collieries would provide teams to deal with these problems if the management proved incompetent.

## Blackmail

2. 'Flooding'. As with SC this problem has been handled adequately for umpteen years and all auxiliary pumping systems are under the direct control of the officials and management.

3. 'The Board has identified at least 18 collieries where geological problems are mounting'. (*Sunday Express* 17/6/84). 99.9% of all geological deterioration can be overcome even after a long period of inactivity. This has always been the case in the past.

If SC or flooding accumulates in the pits then someone has been negligent and is likely to have contravened the 1954 Mines and Quarries Act or is it now NCB policy to hide the truth and attempt to intimidate and blackmail

miners back to work.

The health, safety and development of the pits and the coal industry is governed by one factor — finance or the lack of it. The closing of a seam, district or pit is finally decided by this factor alone. Exhaustion is the only exception on which we all agree.

The average cost for a new coal face is £3m. The present cost, per week, to the government as a result of the coal strike is £70 million! (*Guardian* 16/6/84).

Yes, Mr MacGregor, the pits are in danger but not from the miners who work long hours and years underground, many of whom have given their life to the industry, to retire with lost limbs and debilitating diseases and who never live long enough to enjoy their retirement let alone reach the age of 72 like yourself.

If the millions and millions of pounds being spent to try and break our strike and smash the NUM was spent on investment and expansion in the industry then our problems would be over.

If you have the interests of our industry at heart why do you not demand this from the Government or is your brief from Mrs. Thatcher, the same as the one for British Steel where capacity was "expanded" from a projected 35m tonnes in the early 1980's to less than 15m tonnes when you left and where you looked after the interests of your employees by throwing over 80,000 of them on the dole.

You can fly back to America and resume a life of luxury and security whenever you choose. I can't, nor can thousands of miners who will have nowhere to go if their pit, with coal still in it, closes. And the future for our kids? Do you care? Well I care, and so do thousands of other miners who will continue, no matter what, to fight for their right to work.

I am an ordinary coalface worker who's job, industry, community and children's future is not for sale. You will not defeat us, Mr MacGregor, the issues for us are too great.

You probably cannot understand this but let me assure you of one thing. We will continue to fight and struggle and we will win. We have to.

J. A. Robinson,  
Cotgrave NUM,  
Nottingham.

## Jobless and arrested in Maltby

Sir — After being stopped in Maltby on my way home on Friday night by two young police officers I was beginning to wonder what was happening to the town I live in.

When people said England is becoming a police state I hadn't much idea what they meant. To be honest I wouldn't know a police state if it bit me on the behind.

But on Sunday night I was arrested after going into Maltby police station to see why they had just arrested a young lad. I saw the whole incident and just don't know why they arrested him. I entered the station with four others who are miners and being miners they were wearing stickers saying "Coal not dole".

## Worse

To be honest I believe this was the reason we were arrested. Not being a miner, I could sense that there was — to put it mildly — a hatred by some officers against these N.C.B. workers.

Things in Maltby have been getting worse over the last few days and there have been countless incidents where miners have been arrested.

I have been out of work for four years after being made redundant so I know more than most what being out of work is like.

## Harassed

The only way to save other people from the situation I am in is to stand together and stop the Coal Board from closing these pits.

One thing I have learned over the past few days is what many others will learn over the next few weeks — what a police state is.

Mrs. Thatcher says Notts miners have a right to go to work. Surely people in Maltby (whether miners or not) have a right to go out without being harassed by our so called police force.

P. Andrews,  
108 Tickhill Rd,  
Maltby

## Get turned on and aid the strike

Sir — Perhaps there are many people, like me, outside the mining industry, who would love to help the miners on a daily basis, but don't live in a mining area to help strikers.

There is a way, however, that anyone can register their support: Through their electricity meter.

It appears that the Coal Board and government think that they can sit out the dispute through summer because of falling electricity demand.

Why not then, on the back page of *The Miner*, print a poster with "Leave a Light on for a Miner" or something similar.

An increase in demand now would really have them running scared!

Mr. R. Hughes 19 Argyle Road, Brighton, Sussex

# A playwright's support for the miners

Sir — My attitude to the strike is simple: it has all my sympathy, especially from the human point of view.

But also important is the fact — a crucial fact — that coal is going to be

more vital when the oil runs out than it has ever been. And the oil surely will run out.

The oil bonanza is real-

ly a curse. It has blinded people. And the human factor ("Coal not Dole") has fallen on hearts which find it more comfortable

## Nothing without struggle

Sir — I would like to ask the working miners a simple question: What have the working class of this once great nation ever achieved that hasn't been fought, struggled and strived for?

Answer: Nothing.

We are now in the sixteenth week of a fight to save jobs and pits, my job and pit, maybe yours too. We will win, make no mistake about that, but I wouldn't like to think that I needed someone else to fight my battles for me.

Nor would I like to feel I needed a fascist in blue to take me past my brothers on the picket line to work.

I implore you, do what you know you should be doing, come and stand with us.

L. J. Fisher  
(Ireland Colliery),  
59 Old Hill,  
Bolsover,  
Chesterfield,  
Derbyshire

not to know.

But when the oil wells do go dry — and when it is too late — people's eyes will be opened onto a penniless desolation. And they'll be bloody cold!

People (humanity) will only last long enough in terms of geological time if the geological resources of the earth are respected — and that means coal.

Seams must be nurtured and coal gathered from wherever it is safe — and economical on human terms — not the pure profit motive.

I hope all goes well.

Alan Sillitoe  
Wittersham,  
Isle of Oxney, Kent.

# Red faces as Coal Board catches itself in the numbers trap

The Coal Board has been caught up in its own propaganda trap of manufacturing the numbers of miners at work.

And, ironically, it was the recently issued MacGregor letter which blew the gaff.

If the letter had been issued to striking miners only, the Board would have had to send out 153,000 of the letters.

But that would have amounted to a public admission that of the country's total 180,000 miners only 27,000 were still working. Coal Board claims that between 40,000 and 50,000 miners are working would have been exposed to the public gaze as false.

After much head scratching, the board's answer to the problem was to send out the MacGregor letter to all

180,000 miners. Miners still working were astonished to receive the letter urging them to go back to work.

The cost in postage of sending out the letter was around £30,000. If the letter had been limited to the striking miners alone, the bill would have been around £4,000 less.

The Coal Board's numbers problem was not helped by a series of grossly conflicting state-

ments in a 24-hour period.

On Saturday, June 23rd, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told a Conference of Welsh Conservatives that "25 per cent" (45,000 miners) were working.

The following day, Coal Board Director Ned Smith claimed on Radio 4's World This Weekend that "30 per cent" (54,000) were working. On the same day Sun journalists (preparing the following day's newspaper) were writing that 60,000 were at work.

Lack of uniformity by the major propaganda arms — media, Government and Coal Board — has served to sow confusion and lower credibility among all three.

Meanwhile the position in Notts, where the bulk of the working miners are situated, was rapidly changing as *The Miner* went to Press.

### Future

The almost total rail blockade on coal movements was making production in the county a futile exercise.

Railmen at Shirebrook, a key depot which in the past has been taking coal from the Notts pits to the important Trent Valley power stations, have now virtually choked off all deliveries.

Their action is causing some working miners in the county to re-think their position.

## STRIKE NEWS IN BRIEF

A man walked into NUM headquarters in Sheffield and handed over a brown paper parcel to secretary Linsey Williams.

The man, who looked to be in his '60s, asked that the contents be used to aid striking miners' wives. He refused to say what the contents were or leave his name and address.

Ms Williams opened the parcel to find inside... £10,000 in banknotes.

The staggered secretary commented: "I could have dropped through the floor when I opened the parcel."

Every member of Kent NACODS — with a single exception — is donating a minimum of £10 a week to the striking miners. Meanwhile NACODS have withdrawn their invitation to the Coal Board boss, Ian MacGregor, to address their annual conference. The deputies union is increasingly concerned at MacGregor's Chairmanship of the Board.

The number of arrests in the strike has now topped 3,500. Among the latest to be arrested was Dennis Murphy, leader of the Northumberland miners and an NEC member. Mr. Murphy, who was arrested in London, is the fourth member of the NEC to be seized by police.

A massive food convoy will be heading into Notts on July 8th. The convoy, brainchild of Sheffield's Women Against Pit Closures organisation and the city's trades council, will be delivering food to the hard-pressed families of striking Notts miners. The day will be rounded off with a family festival in Mansfield.

The mining unions in 57 countries have now backed the NUM's fight against pit closures. The astonishing range of countries spans the globe and the political divide — from Australia to Zambia, Peru to Pakistan.

The enlarged group of European Parliament Labour members have lost no time in backing the miners' struggle. Newly elected MEP for Yorkshire South, Norman West, told *The Miner* that a resolution "expressing full support for the miners" has already been passed and that the group had decided to do "everything possible to mobilise full support from socialist colleagues in Europe." The Labour MEPs are also making regular cash donations to the strike fund.

## Road blocks crack appears

The police strategy of anti-picketing road blocks has suffered its first legal setback.

A bus driver has been awarded £500 costs against police who arrested him on a flying picket run.

The decision represents the first crack in the entire strategy of preventing people from freely travelling the highways of Britain.

The driver, David Burdett, is taking the case further and plans to sue the police for damages for unlawful arrest, and for loss of earnings caused by his bail conditions.

Mr Burdett, who was acquitted on a charge of obstruction, was stopped by police at 5.30am on April 27th while taking miners from Eckington, in Derbyshire, to Coalville, in Leicestershire. The miners he was carrying were forced by police to get off the coach.

### Rights

Mr Burdett then showed the police a letter written by his solicitor to the chief constable pointing out that there was no law whatever stopping him carrying out a commercial contract. But the police simply ignored the letter.

Mr Burdett said he wanted to drive on to the pickets' destination so that he could pick the men up later. The police ignored that, too, and put him in custody for seven hours.

One of his bail conditions was that he must not return to any NCB property, and this prevented him from driving other miners around the country.

When his case came before the courts, Coalville magistrates in Leicestershire acquitted 37-year-old Mr Burdett of the charge of obstructing the police and awarded him £500 legal costs against the police.

The significance of the case was not lost further afield. Commented a spokesperson for Policewatch, the organisation monitoring police activity in the dispute:

"It is hoped that the acquittal of Mr Burdett in this case and the penalty in costs imposed on the police will help to re-establish the right of free movement by all about the country and discourage the police from making arrests in future in similar circumstances."

● The Police Federation itself is already on record as expressing serious doubts about the legality of road blocks. The views were aired in the Federation's own magazine.



## Farewell Joe

Thousands attend the funeral of Joe Green, the 54-year-old Kellingley miner who was killed by a lorry on the Ferrybridge picket line in North Yorkshire.

Among those who paid tribute were Mr. and Mrs. Mark Jones, the parents of Yorkshire miner David Jones, who died on a Notts picket line three months ago.

In a moving ceremony during the June 27th rally in London a wreath was placed in the Thames and two minutes' silence observed in respect of Joe and David; two generations apart, both men had died fighting for the basic human right to a job.

In the minds of people everywhere, they will live on.

# Flying Pickets to aid miners

The big names of the pop world are backing the miners' fight against unemployment.

In a series of dramatic developments, major pop groups — many of whose fans are on the dole — are identifying with the

struggle for the right to work.

Plans have already been made for UB40 and

the Flying Pickets to stage a miners' benefit concert in Leicester.

The date is Friday July

6th, and the concert, at the city's De Montfort Hall, kicks off at 7pm.

Former lead singer of The Jam, Paul Weller, who now sings with Style Council, has donated a Gold Disc to striking Notts miners.

### Billy Connolly

The disc, which was awarded to The Jam for selling 100,000 copies of their LP, Dig The New Breed, is to be raffled off by the Notts men and is expected to make many thousands of pounds.

Meanwhile, Scotland's foremost comedian Billy Connolly is chipping in with his own unique brand of humour and music at a miners' benefit concert at the Grand Theatre in Leeds at 7.30pm on July 8th.

The growing support from the pop and wider showbiz world isn't just a financial lift. More importantly, it's a major morale booster as more and more people recognise that the miners are now leading a nationwide fightback against the wanton destruction of industrial Britain.

## Geordies on the march



The proud banners of the Durham and Northumberland miners carry the universal message of unity and determination in a highly successful North East Day of Action.

Hundreds of thousands in the region are stepping up support for the NUM's struggle — financially, morally and physically — as the recognition grows that without the pits the devastation of the region would be horrendous.

The Geordie fighting spirit has been well and truly lit and is growing in intensity by the day.

# HOW THE TALKS BROKE

The talks could not have started in a more bizarre fashion.

Representing the NUM side was myself, President Arthur Scargill and Vice-President Mick McGahay.

The Board put forward Ian MacGregor, James Cowan and Ned Smith.

Mr MacGregor was supposed to lead for the Board, but in an amazing non-performance, for the first 15 minutes he just sat in his chair, arms folded, immobile and uttering not a word.

I thought to myself: 'Either this man's dead or my watch has stopped'.

The atmosphere was cold in the extreme, and in marked contrast to the previous two meetings at Barnsley and Edinburgh.

Those two meetings had laid the framework for useful and productive movement on the part of the Board.

There had been broad agreement on two of the three areas covering pit closures — exhaustion and impossible geological conditions.

## Belligerent

There was no important disagreement on those two issues: when a pit is exhausted, it obviously has to close; and when geological conditions make it impossible to mine further coal, the same applies.

The sticking point was economic closures. The union put forward a powerful, logical and reasoned case, arguing essentially that the whole

Much media nonsense surrounded the breakdown of NUM/NCB talks on Wednesday, June 13th. Mischievous and inaccurate reporting clouded the events at the Carlton Park Hotel, Rotherham, on that day. NUM General Secretary PETER HEATHFIELD sets the record straight and puts the current position into practical context.

concept of economic closures was a non-starter.

What was today classed as uneconomic could tomorrow become economic.

The world price of oil could change the picture; as, indeed, could adequate investment in threatened pits.

The Board appeared to be finally recognising the validity of the union arguments.

It was being intimated that the Board's 20,000 redundancy plan, announced on March 6th and the spark for the whole strike, would be withdrawn and an acceptable solution drawn up.

That was the fruit of the two previous meetings. But on June 13th it was as though those meetings had never taken place.

To say the Board entered that Rotherham meeting in a belligerent attitude would be a serious understatement.

It was pure Jekyll and Hyde. And I am in no

doubt who administered the potion to transform the Board back into the guise of Mr Hyde. There could have been only one person responsible, the Prime Minister.

Suddenly the 20,000 closure list was back on the table as a pre-condition of settlement. Throughout the 90-minute meeting there was not one shred of an attempt by the Board at sensible negotiations. It was as though they had collectively taken leave of their senses.

A little known fact is that there is a Cabinet committee which meets twice a week and involves itself very fully indeed in the miners' strike. Made up of Mrs Thatcher, Energy Secretary Peter Walker, legal, industrial and defence ministers, its views are made abundantly clear to the NCB.

I have no doubt whatever that in between the Edinburgh and Rotherham meetings, the Board received its "guidelines" from that committee.

My guess is that the Government persuaded the Board to take a very high-risk gamble indeed on trying to break the strike before the autumn, and that was the reason for the Rotherham billigerence.

## Strategy

The breakdown of the talks, the management ballot idea, the MacGregor letter and the naked attempts to tempt miners back to work with holiday pay promises, all indicate that the strategy was worked out in advance of the Rotherham talks.

An article in the previous day's *Times*, setting out the belligerent Coal Board strategy, was further proof — and had the calculated effect of freezing the atmosphere in advance.

But by engineering the breakdown of talks, the Board/Government made a crucial miscalculation. They believed that coupled with other propaganda ploys, the spirit of the striking miners would be lowered.

The essential ingredient they did not include is that the members of this union are well aware that in a month's time we shall be in the final month of summer. After 19 weeks overtime ban and four months strike, the balance of industrial power will be firmly in the hands of a membership which has grown to be more resolute and determined than ever.

I say to the Board: Think again! Return to the spirit of Edinburgh and bury the disaster of Rotherham.

Drop the hit list and talk to us about creating a sensible, expanding and secure coal industry — an industry which benefits EVERYONE.

They should need no reminding that time is now very firmly on our side.

# THE MINERS' CAMPAIGN VIDEOTAPES

(N.U.M. endorsed)

Programme titles (running time approx 10 mins each)

- THE COAL BOARD'S BUTCHERY - NO PIT IS SAFE
- REDUNDANCY - THE ROAD TO NOWHERE
- SOLIDARITY - TRADE UNIONS SUPPORT THE MINERS
- THE LIE MACHINE - MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE STRIKE
- THE STRIKE AND THE INDUSTRY - FACTS AND FIGURES (with Dennis Skinner)
- NOT JUST TEA AND SANDWICHES - MINERS' WIVES SPEAK OUT
- ONLY DOING THEIR JOB? - THE POLICE, THE LAW AND THE MINERS (with Paul Foot and Dennis Skinner)
- THIS MAN MACGREGOR - PORTRAIT OF A PARASITE

USE THESE VIDEOTAPES AS PART OF THE CAMPAIGN - ORGANISE A SHOWING FOR YOUR LODGE, CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, UNION BRANCH, TRADES COUNCIL, COMMUNITY GROUP - TODAY

COPIES (VHS) FREE TO MINERS - from Platform Films, London. 01 278 8394  
Trade Films, Gateshead 0632 775532

The videotapes are available to other trade unions and groups at a reasonable cost.

The Miners' Videotapes have been made by a group of ACTT Technicians and Film & Video Workshops, with the endorsement of the Kent Area NUM/South Wales Area NUM/Derbyshire Area NUM/Northumberland Area NUM/Yorkshire Area NUM in support of the 1984 miners' strike.

## ARE YOU A NON-MINER?

Cash is vital if the miners are to win the fight for the right to a job.

You can help by making a donation, however large or small.

Help Britain's miners to put a halt to the industrial devastation of our country.

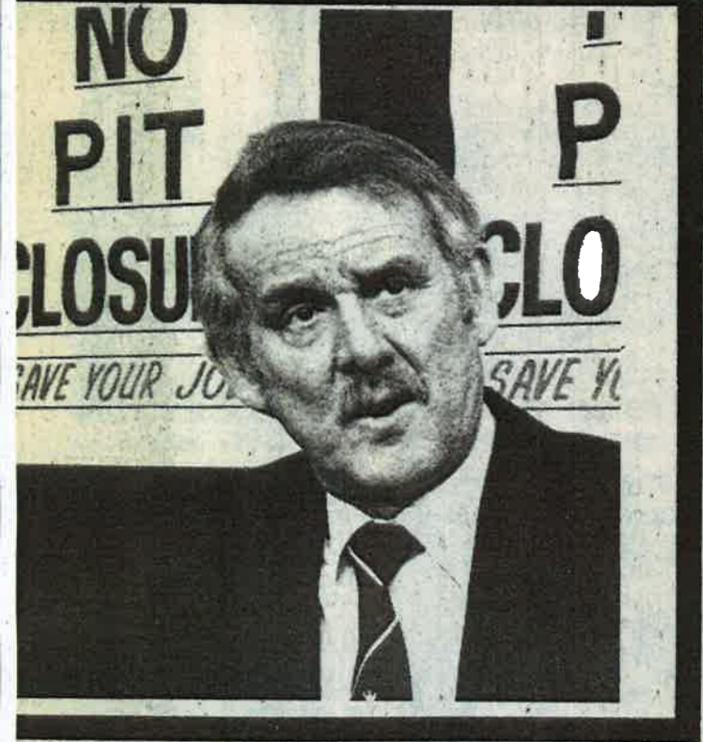
Their Fight is EVERYONE'S fight.

For maximum response, pass this paper on to the general public.

Send donations to: Miners' Solidarity Fund, St. James' House, Vicar Lane, Sheffield. Cheques and postal orders made payable to Miners' Solidarity Fund. Or you can pay cash in-

mediately through any bank, quoting Miners' Solidarity Fund, Co-op Bank, Sheffield Branch, Account No. 30000009, Bank sorting code 08-90-75.

# DOWN



## STRIKE DIARY

### Stand by for Saatchi-ration

Are Saatchi and Saatchi about to enter the strike scene? A curious phone call to the NUM HQ prompts the question. The lady caller asked for the spelling of the name of the General Secretary, Peter Heathfield, but was bashful about giving her own name. Only after persistent questioning did she reveal that she was inquiring on behalf of an advertising agency. Further inquiries revealed that the agency was in fact those infamous brothers in slime, Saatchi and Saatchi, whose packaging of Thatcher conned a whole country into voting the witch into No. 10. Mind you, if they are about to take on the job of polishing the Coal Board image, they have a problem. It would be easier to polish the image of Dracula than present MacGregor in a semi-human light.

### Sick joke

If anyone needed confirmation of what the real an MacGregor is like, a little item tucked away on the back page of the Observer (June 17th) provided it. Reporting MacGregor's arrival at a London station following the breakdown of talks in Motherham, the paper noted: "As he was heading for his car he happened to see a group of striking miners with a large collecting bucket soliciting donations from the public. "With a broad smile, Mr MacGregor changed direction and headed towards the group. He put his hand in his pocket as if to pull out some money. "His smile getting still broader he drew up to the bin; he pulled his hand out of his pocket — and defiantly threw only an imaginary and non-existent handful of coins into the bucket." We feel no comment is necessary except to say that we do indeed have a sick man heading the NCB.

### There for the taking

Remember GCHQ Heltenham, the place where Thatcher decided at the right to belong to trade union shall cease to exist. Well, around 150 of the workers employed there are still resisting the hatcher diktat and have refused to quit their unions. And why is Thatcher keeping her painted lips silent on the issue, why is she not trying to hammer them? Yes, you've guess-

sed it. She doesn't want it blowing up at the moment, for fear that the communications workers will make common cause with the miners. As we have said on many occasions, so frightened is she of other workers joining with the miners that trades unionists are now in a position to challenge her policies — and break them — at will. All they need to do is realise their power — Now!

# NCB supply firm lets cat out of closure bag

A leading pit supplier has let slip long-term Coal Board plans for the industry. And the news is devastating, confirming the NUM's worst fears. A copy of a confidential statement by the General Manager of Clayton Equipment in Derbyshire — major suppliers to the NCB — discloses that the Board is letting it be known privately that half of all the Coal Board areas are earmarked for shutdown. It also confirms that up to 70 pits are to be closed. The General Manager, Mr R A Boast, says in his statement, which is dated June 6th, 1983: "The last two months order intake from the NCB has been good. The orders are mainly for the Selby Coalfield and other North Yorkshire pits. There are about five schemes under consideration by the Coal Board involving rubber tyred locomotives but the latest information is that many of these have been shelved because of the shortage of finance. "There is considerable re-organisation occurring in the Coal Board. The suggestion is that 12 areas will be reduced to 6 and up to 70 pits will be closed within the next five years. "There is some apprehension regarding the future."

### In line

Clayton Equipment, a long established company within the coal industry, is best known for its manufacture of underground locomotives, nicknamed "Clayton Ponies," and the supply of a variety of underground electrical equipment. With no political axe to grind, how the firm views the future will be an accurate guide to the true long-term intentions of the Coal Board.

NCB plans to cut the number of areas in half and close up to 70 pits by 1988 is almost exactly in line with the repeated warnings issued by the NUM President over recent years.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S STATEMENT**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**

The following orders have been received since the last meeting held on the 27th April, 1983:-

- 2 - 5½ tonne battery locomotives for Ghana
- 2 - 9 tonne battery locomotives for Ghana
- 3 - 1½ chassis for South Crofty Timbane
- 1 - 3½ tonne rubber tyred locomotive for Bagworth

**Turnover**  
Turnover is below budget.

**Order Intake**  
Order intake is on budget.

**Home Market**  
The last two months order intake from the N.C.B. has been good. The orders are mainly for the Selby coalfields and other North Yorkshire pits. There are about five schemes under consideration by the Coal Board involving rubber tyred locomotives but the latest information is that many of these have been shelved because of the shortage of finance.

There is considerable re-organisation occurring in the Coal Board. The suggestion is that 12 areas will be reduced to 6 and up to 70 pits will be closed within the next five years. There is some apprehension regarding the future.

**Export Market**  
Our main hope once again is the 25 locomotives for Konkola Mine in Zambia. We have heard no further news on this. Our validity expires at the end of this month.

A letter of intent has been received for 2 - 10 tonne locomotives for India and we are optimistic we can get one or two locomotives from Peru. Considering the circumstances our immediate workload is reasonable but the future continues to be uncertain and we do not see any sign of a permanent pick up in the situation. Overseas trading in particular remains very difficult.

## Protection guidelines for pickets

The NUM nationally is sending out guidelines on suitable dress for picket lines. The move follows increasing concern at the spectacle of heavily armed police confronting unprotected miners in tee-shirts and jeans. The NUM suggests that miners at risk should take a leaf out of the police book and take elementary precautions by wearing headgear, such as pit helmets, to protect themselves from truncheons. Arm and leg padding is also suggested in addition to shin pads, pit boots and cricket boxes. Police have inflicted serious injuries on unprotected miners over the past few weeks, and their unlawful action has created an inevitable backlash within the union.

## POET'S CORNER

### THE MINERS

Throughout this nation's history, these gallant men have shown;  
Great courage and endurance, of the hardships they have known;  
And true to their tradition, when facing threats anew  
The fight against oppression they fervently pursue.  
Attempts to bring them to their knees, are reckless, ill-advised  
And plotted by dictatorship, so ruthlessly devised.  
To see their life's work ending with the flourish of the pen,  
Has set rebellion raging in the hearts of mining men.  
Condemned to live in poverty, futility and dole,  
Is this how to reward them, who risk their lives for coal?  
Never starved into submission, the miners stand unbowed,  
Subjected to indignities, remaining staunch and proud.  
Their plea shall not be silenced, their leaders not be hushed,  
No compromising principles, such strength cannot be crushed.  
This cause should be supported, we must heed the battle cry.  
For the triumph they are seeking, shall belong to you and I.

Kathleen L. Wray

The Clayton Document above ties in with the June 14th, 1983 confidential Coal Board minutes reproduced below. The minute of the Coal Industry National Consultative Council meeting states quite clearly that with Selby coming on stream the intention is to remove 25 million tonnes of capacity from the other pits. Roughly speaking that equals 70 pits and 70,000 jobs.

**5. THE BOARD'S "DISCUSSION DOCUMENT"**

SIR NORMAN SIDDELL said that the "confidential document" referred to in recent media comment had been prepared in response to objectives for the Board published in Hansard on 18th March 1983. Its purpose was to show how these objectives could be met and, in particular, how an overall break even without deficit grants might be achieved by 1987/88; the main emphasis was on the separate but related problem of the current supply/demand imbalance and continuing large operating losses at collieries. The document was a basis for further discussions and did not constitute an agreed Corporate Plan or imply that detailed decisions had been taken by the Board.

The Board saw little prospect of inland sales exceeding 105 gpps in the next few years. Even with exports at around 8 mpps and minimum imports, to bring supply and demand into reasonable balance and avoid intolerable levels of stocking would require a significant net reduction in output in the next five years. The necessary net reduction was however around 11 mt or 10%, not 25% as reported. Making allowance for new capacity such as Selby, 25 mpps of short-life capacity would need to be phased out. The Discussion Document did not however refer to numbers of collieries or their location; closures would continue to be dealt with locally under the CRP in full consultation with the Unions. The continuing need to improve productivity, together with lower output, could reduce manshifts required by some 7% per annum over the period.

Returning to the Board's financial results, SIR NORMAN SIDDELL said the previous year's loss of £500m. after interest indicated the measure of the task facing the industry in its efforts to break even. In the current market situation, any improvement would have to come from reduced Colliery Unit Costs rather than increased prices; failure to achieve the financial objectives would inevitably jeopardise the Board's capital expenditure programme, and seriously harm the industry in the long term. Even if break even was reached



# 250,000 back Welsh action day

Wales on the march as Labour movement leaders join in a hugely successful day of action to back the miners' strike. Over a quarter of a million people took part in the principality's action day, and a mood of supreme confidence was summed up in a blistering speech by area president Emlyn Williams.

"We are coasting home. The closure programme is dead and will be dead forever. So far as the miners are concerned, there is no compromise. Victory must be final!"



Pictures by: Martin Shakeshaft and Rick Matthews (IFL), Ron Richardson and Tony Hall.



Tens of thousands on the march at the annual Yorkshire Miners Gala.

Kellingley NUM, its banner draped in black, led the march in honour of member Joe Green, who just 24 hours earlier had been run down and killed on the Ferrybridge picket line.

The massive turn-out on the day was overshadowed by Joe's death, but it served to do what Joe himself would have wished: strengthen still further the determination to win a resounding victory and lay the foundations for a secure and decent future for the current generation and those to follow. Far left: A Yorkshire miner breaks ranks to shake the hand of Area President Jack Taylor who went on to make a keynote speech in which he put the miners' enemies in context.

The Coal Board and Government just do not understand the determination of the miners who defend their industry to win the fight, he said.

"Two Yorkshire miners had died, men had been beaten, attacked by dogs and horses, handcuffed, tied to trees, jailed without trial, had their phones tapped and homes watched by police; not in South Africa or South America, but here in Britain.

"We are not going to have our country run like that. This is a fight for everyone — for a decent, just and free future — and that's why we shall win," Mr. Taylor declared to massive applause.



Coal, rail and the cement of friendship as Scottish miners' leader Mick McGahey joins hands with railmen's leader Jimmy Knapp at the annual Scots NUM Gala. One of the most moving events of the day came when the Scottish miners (below) presented a silver salver to the Notts Miners' Wives Support Group in recognition of their heroic work. The Notts wives pictured are Gwen McLeod (left) and Sharon Reed.



## FLEET ST. VISITORS

Northumberland miners sit down in Fleet St. in protest at the regular flow of anti-miner bias in the papers while alongside Kent miners Roger Godfrey and Peter Foord are given yet another cheque by The Sun's production workers who despise the material they are forced to print.



# NEVER AGAIN

There was only one event out of the ordinary at Orgreave on Monday, June 18th.

And that was for the first time the TV cameras actually gave the public a fleeting glimpse of police violence.

The scene showing a policeman repeatedly truncheoning a miner about the head was acted out many times — in roads, in fields, in streets and even in an ice cream queue.

Those responsible, who dress up in blue uniforms and call themselves policemen, must never again be permitted to get away with what they did on that day.

They must be brought before the most powerful court on earth — public opinion.

And YOU can play a major part in that process.

Every single copy of *The Miner* is precious in exposing what happened. Pass it on to friends and neighbours, inside and outside of the industry.

In your local shops, organisations, churches, schools, factories, offices, railways, buses, taxis and docks, show everyone who draws breath the evidence of what is happening.

And when that is done let the copies of this paper go to friends abroad so the people of this earth know what is happening in 1984 Britain.

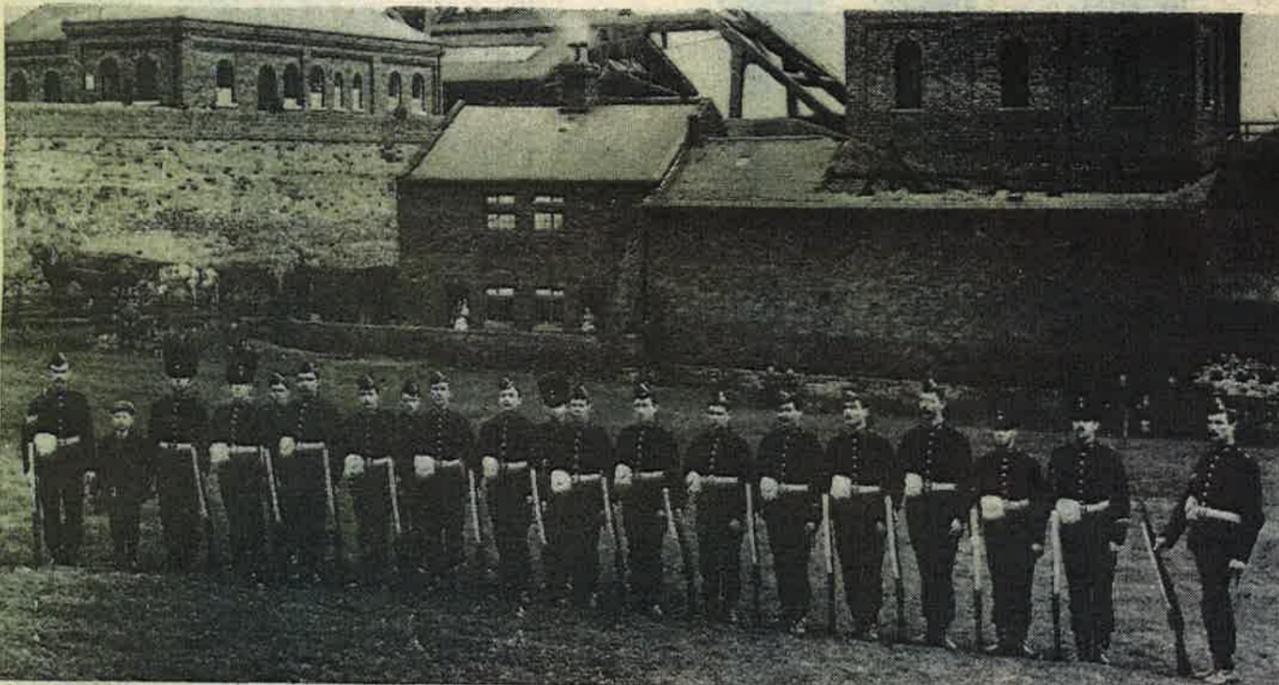
Only by our silence can the police continue their reign of terror against Britain's mining communities.

On June 18th hundreds of miners were physically assaulted, including the National and Yorkshire Area Presidents.

The police must never be allowed a repeat performance.



★  
A young miner at Orgreave — totally defenceless — urges a riot policeman to stop his attack. The policeman goes insane and beats the man with his truncheon. Such appalling scenes were commonplace on June 18th.



91 years apart the message remains the same ... Above, the military at Orgreave pit during the lockout of 1893. "Over-production" was the spark for the dispute; management wanted to reduce pay so that coal would be more competitive. Meanwhile people froze to death for lack of the very coal which the employers wanted to cut back. Below, June 18th, 1984, and the modern "Troops" line up at the Orgreave coking plant; the argument stays the same: Too much "high cost" production which must be cut so that coal can be more competitive. Yet people still cry out for the

warmth, electricity and 1,000 by-products which coal can give. 91 years on we are still in the grip of a system which is incapable of harnessing the strengths and talents of our people to supply the goods and services which other people want. And that will remain the case as long as power stays in the hands of a small, immensely wealthy and unrepresentative clique who have nothing whatever in common with the vast majority of our people. Their guideline which spans the years is private greed before public need.



The police claim that truncheons are only drawn in self defence. This photo proves otherwise.

## Army demo photographer is arrested

Tony Lowe — the miner who photographed the Army driving a police van at a miners' demonstration — has been arrested at Orgreave.

The arrest, on June 18th, was just three days after Tony's sensational pictures — taken at a London demonstration — were published in *The Miner*.

A regular picket for over 14 weeks, he had not been involved in any trouble throughout the dispute.

Tony, who works at Wistow Colliery in the Selby Coalfield, told *The Miner* of the circumstances surrounding his arrest:

"I was just standing around at the time and there was nothing happening — a sort of lull.

"I wasn't even looking towards the police lines. Then from out of the blue a snatch squad just grabbed me and took me through their lines.

"As I was dragged through many coppers gave me a kick and thump although the arresting policemen themselves didn't do that."

Tony was taken to Rotherham Police Station where he was charged.

"The arresting officer asked the Inspector what he should charge me with and he said 'Unlawful assembly'. He took a form from out of a pile. I thought it was all a bit strange.

### Vomiting

"The whole thing looked like a set up to me. They've given me bail conditions which mean I can't go picketing anywhere. That means they've stopped me from taking pictures."

Tony, although deeply angry at what had taken place, was even more concerned at what he had witnessed in the police cells:

"What happened to me was nothing compared to some of the lads in the other cells. There was one lad with 15 stitches in his head — some of them 1½ inches wide — and ten stitches in his upper lip. There was hardly a bone in his body that was not bruised.

"He was so dazed he didn't know his own name and he was vomiting. Police only allowed him back to hospital after the strongest protests from the NUM solicitor.

"I saw 11 men crowded in the stifling heat of a cell little bigger than a toilet.

"I had confidence in the British Bobby before all this. Now that's all gone."

**COAL, THE NATION'S  
ENERGY FUTURE**



**VICTORY**

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**TO**

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**THE**

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**MINERS**

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*Use this back page as a poster*

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**Organisation:** National Union of Mineworkers

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