

# SCARGILL SLAMS SUN POLL ON PITS BALLOT

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## *But rebellion is growing*



Scargill . . . he raps "gross interference"

By TOM CONDON

**MINERS' leader Arthur Scargill** yesterday blasted The Sun for conducting a ballot on his pit union's controversial overtime ban.

He called it "gross interference in the affairs of a democratic and independent union."

Mr Scargill branded the ballot form in yesterday's paper as "disgraceful" and said he had contacted his lawyers.

He added: "The data published by The Sun is highly damaging."

As Mr Scargill hit out, pitmen, their wives and Coal Board chief Ian MacGregor piled on the pressure for a secret ballot on the overtime ban, which has already cost miners £30 million in wages.

One of the angry wives, Christine Postill, stressed that Mr Scargill had not lost a penny of his own £550-a-week salary.

Her husband John, 43, a security officer at Mr Scargill's old Woolley pit in West Yorks, is nearly £1,000 down.

### **Worries**

Mrs Postill said: "It makes me mad when Scargill doesn't have these financial worries, but is prepared to let us suffer."

Coal boss Mr MacGregor made it clear that the 5.2 per cent pay offer that led to the 10-week-old ban would **NOT** be increased.

**NINE HUNDRED** pitmen at Silverdale Colliery, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, walked out yesterday after refusing to work with a rebel cage winder who had crossed their picket line.