

Scargill is blasted by coal chief

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COAL BOARD chief Ian MacGregor yesterday roasted miners' leader Arthur Scargill for waging a "private war" with the Government.

Mr MacGregor stormed: "Mr Scargill wants a private battle funded from the pay packets of the miners and other unions' members who may lose their jobs in the process."

The coal boss also accused Mr Scargill of: **INTIMIDATING** miners who want to work; **JUGGLING** with union rules; **SPREADING** "gloomy and irresponsible lies about the future of the pits"; and **AVOIDING** a strike ballot of members "for the last six weeks."

Mr MacGregor called on miners to back him.

He warned them: "There's no advantage for you in helping Mr Scargill threaten the future of the Government by threatening your future at the same time."

"It's time for the miners, their wives and their families to recognise this political posturing for what it is and to get on with our common objective of making our coal industry the envy of Europe."

Mr MacGregor added that he was "supremely

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confident" Nottinghamshire miners would this week defy the most savage picketing yet and carry on working.

"They have their feet on the ground. They know what the real facts are," he said.

He spoke just hours after the Nottingham miners' leaders ordered the men to stop work to back Mr Scargill's delegate conference call for a total shutdown.

Yesterday Nottinghamshire men made it clear they are prepared to defy any threats in their determination to stay at their jobs.

More than 2,000 miners in the South Derbyshire coalfield also announced they will carry on working.