

# Unions must obey law, Kinnock says

From Tim Jones, Tenby

Mr Neil Kinnock tempered a scathing attack on the Prime Minister's handling of the coal dispute yesterday with a warning to trade unionists that the law had to be obeyed.

The Labour Party leader told delegates to the Wales Labour Party conference that democratic socialists could not sharpen legality as a weapon in a future Labour administration if they scorned it now. Trade unions had to respect the law as the price of survival.

But one delegate, Mr Derek Gregory, regional organiser of the National Union of Public Employees, was applauded as he appeared to rebuff Mr Kinnock's remarks.

"After the laws of transient Toryism, there is the law of solidarity and we will continue to obey that law whether or not the other laws are broken."

Mr Kinnock said Mrs Thatcher had set the course for the pit closure programme, chosen Mr Ian MacGregor to enforce it and deprived miners' families of £15 a week from supplementary benefits in the hope that would deprive and demoralize them into submission.

"After all that, if Mrs Thatcher is a non-interventionist, Nero was a town planner,

Atilla the Hun a clumsy tourist and William the Conqueror a peripatetic French teacher".

"She wants complete obedience from the NCB. She wants unconditional surrender and nothing else from the miners and their families."

● Detectives in Nottinghamshire are investigating scores of reports of intimidation, while uniform policemen in tightly-knit mining communities have received reinforcements to keep a 24-hour watch on the homes and families of working miners (Craig Seton writes).

Warwickshire police yesterday issued a list of more than 100 cases of alleged intimidation being investigated.

● Three Yorkshire pickets alleged to have attacked a Nottinghamshire miner on his way to work were charged with intimidation under the Conspiracy and Protection Act, 1975, when they appeared at Mansfield Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Steven Whittaker, aged 23, from Conisbrough; Neil Davey, aged 23, from Conisbrough, and Shaun Joseph, aged 30, from Conanby, were remanded on bail.

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