

# WE'LL TIGHTEN THE KNOT, SAYS SCARGILL

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## Miners reject 'peace' bid

**MINERS' leader Arthur Scargill last night warned:**

**"We want to tighten the knot we have so we can win this dispute quicker."**

His latest outburst came after the National Union of Mineworkers executive threw out the latest peace bid by Coal Board Chairman Ian MacGregor.

And they decided to recall their special delegate conference in a fortnight's time to step up their campaign.

### Warned

"The NUM leadership is as confident as we have ever been that we shall win," said Mr Scargill after the executive meeting in Sheffield.

Mr Scargill said the union was still prepared to meet the NCB "night or day" to negotiate a settlement, but it still

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insisted that all pits must be retained.

Talks broke down last week when the NUM refused to accept the closure of pits which could not be "beneficially" developed.

Still on the table at that stage was Mr MacGregor's offer to delay the plan to axe 20 pits and 20,000 jobs and to review the closure of five collieries.

Now the Coal Board seem certain to withdraw those concessions and go back to scratch in any further talks.

Mr Scargill appealed for continued financial and moral support from other unions and for their members not to cross picket lines.

He said the main purpose of the delegate conference would be to spread the union's case both inside and outside the NUM.

Mr MacGregor claimed the strike had been ineffective. More pits were now producing coal and more strikers were going back to work.

Mr Scargill was asked about the rebel back-to-

work movement led by "Silver Birch," the secretary Nottinghamshire miner.

"I will leave that to the speculators," he said. "The membership of the NUM clearly supports the policies of the NUM."

In the coalfields, there was again production at the Bilston Glen show-piece colliery near Edinborough as seven face workers crossed picket lines.

One of them was 49-year-old Philip Inverarity, whose council house at nearby Tranent was surrounded at dawn by pickets, many of them from Durham.

### Problem

Forty were arrested, then another 12 were detained after a protest outside Dalkeith police station.

In North Derbyshire, 45 pickets, mainly from Yorkshire, were arrested in clashes with police around Creswell colliery.

South Wales miners' leaders facing a High Court move to jail them for contempt of court must wait until next week to learn whether or not they will go to prison.



SCARGILL . . . new threat



IAN MacGREGOR