



Scargill . . . "exhausted"

Mac worried about Scargill's physical and mental health



MacGregor "concerned"

IS ARTHUR CRACKING

Sun - 7 SEP 1984

SCARGILL SICK?

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er "a liar"—and three days before Sunday's planned peace summit.

He was asked if he thought his latest remarks would torpedo the Edinburgh talks . . . which the NUM last night agreed to attend.

Mr MacGregor replied that he was always honest when he answered questions.

He said of his own health: "I am about as interesting as an old barn door—there's no medical interest in me whatsoever."

The Coal Board said last night that any implication that Mr MacGregor was accusing Mr Scargill of being mentally ill was "quite untrue."

A spokesman added: "Mr MacGregor was asked how his health was standing up to the strain and he was naturally asked

how he felt Mr Scargill was standing up to it."

Mr Scargill, who was at the TUC Congress in Brighton had earlier talked of his non-stop lifestyle.

He said he had not had a single day off in two years and survived on four hours sleep a night. PREMIER Margaret Thatcher yesterday pledged total backing for Mr MacGregor's tough stand against the NUM.

She said in Livingston New Town, Scotland: "I have every confidence in Mr MacGregor. There will be no Government intervention."

Mrs Thatcher also visited a knitwear factory in Kinross where local Tory MP Nicholas Fairbairn was pelted with eggs by striking miners.

Violence erupted at Kellingley Colliery, North



Fairbairn . . . hit by eggs

Yorks, where 4,000 pickets massed to keep out two strike-breakers and hurled broken bottles at police.

PENSIONER Florrie Cope, 75, of Tamworth, Staffs, who threatened to shoot Arthur Scargill with a toy cap pistol, gave herself up to police yesterday . . . and claimed she only wanted to frighten him.

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UP?

COAL chief Ian MacGregor said yesterday that he was worried about Arthur Scargill's health.

Mr MacGregor declared: "He has been working much too hard and I am concerned about his health."

Asked if he meant mental or physical health, 72-year-old Mr MacGregor said: "Both, indeed yes. The stress on him must be very great."

Mr MacGregor's amazing remarks immediately started another slanging match between the two

By TOM CONDON and CHARLES RAE

pit war enemies. Mr Scargill, who earlier admitted that the six-month strike had been "exhausting," hit back angrily.

He said: "I think Mr MacGregor's actions over the past two days are of such concern not only to me but to my members, that he should seek professional advice."

"He is in need of a long rest. Silly statements like the one he has made confirm my analysis."

Mr MacGregor was speaking in London just 48 hours after he had branded the miners' lead-

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