

# SCARGILL'S SHOCK LETTER



Scargill . . . hailed stone-throwing pickets as brave heroes

Dear Mr Hyman,

I am in receipt of your letter asking me what will happen to your son Christopher and others who have been imprisoned as a result of incidents on picket lines during the miners' strike.

I have nothing but admiration for the magnificent young men and women who have fought valiantly to save jobs, pits and communities and in your position, I would feel extremely proud of my son.

Sun - 10 JAN 1985

In years to come when those who crawled through picket lines have been forgotten, those like your son who stood and fought like men will be hailed as heroes and spoken of in the same breath as the Tollpuddle Martyrs, the Chartists and those who built the Labour Movement.

Tribute to thuggery . . . Arthur Scargill's letter to a father whose son was jailed for picket line aggro.

By PHIL DAMPIER and TONY MAGUIRE

**ARTHUR Scargill** has sent an astonishing letter backing the men of violence in the pit strike.

He wrote it to a father whose miner son was jailed for stoning a lorry crossing his picket line.

Dad Mike Hyman had

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asked Mr Scargill to condemn the violence—and stop other youngsters ruining their lives.

Instead, the NUM President wrote:

"I have nothing but admiration for the magnificent young men and women who have fought valiantly to save jobs, pits

and communities and in your position, I would feel extremely proud of my son." Sales engineer Mike, whose 18-year-old son Chris is now serving 60 days in a detention centre: said:

I was sickened. How can I be proud of a son for throwing stones after what happened to that poor taxi-driver in South Wales?

I wrote to Scargill as an angry father, and asked him to condemn the violence. He appears to condone it by his actions.

If it were not for him, *Continued on Page Two*

**It proves he backs men of violence**

## Scargill in letter row

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Son Chris . . . now says Arthur is "a dead loss"



Dad Mike . . . sickened by Scargill's attitude

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my son would not be in a detention centre.

He has never been in any trouble before. He recently got engaged but has lost his job as a trainee miner. His life is in ruins.

Mike, who lives near Newport, Gwent, has twice visited Chris at a Lincolnshire detention centre and says his son now describes Scargill as "a dead loss."

Chris, who lives with his mother — Mike's ex-wife — at Inkersall, Derbyshire, was one of 10 young miners jailed in December after picket line aggro.

His father says Chris "bitterly regrets" what happened.

Mike added: "When I

wrote to Scargill I told him to think about my son over Christmas, while he was sitting down to dinner with his family.

"I asked him what was to become of my son."

Mr Scargill's letter went on to say:

"In years to come, when those who crawled through picket lines have been forgotten, those like your son who stood and fought like men will be hailed as heroes and spoken of in the same breath as the Tollpuddle Martyrs, the Chartists and those who built the Labour movement."

### LOSING

"Tollpuddle" was wrongly spelled—as "Tollpuddle"—in Mr Scargill's letter.

It concluded:

"As far as I'm concerned, there can be no settlement until the Coal Board agree to withdraw their closure plan, keep open the threatened pits, define exhaustion of reserves in line with Plan for Coal, and grant an amnesty ensuring that all those who have been sacked during the dispute can return to work as they did in 1972 and 1974."

But 36-year-old Mike, whose father, grandfather and brother were all pitmen, stormed:

"He cannot guarantee amnesties. He is losing the battle and will be in no position to make demands."