

# Working miner tells of attack

15 JAN 1985 From Peter Davenport, Doncaster

A Yorkshire miner leading legal moves which accuse Mr Arthur Scargill and senior NUM officials of conspiring to assault and intimidate working pitmen spoke of the reasons behing his action last night.

Mr Walter Sharpe, aged 41, was one of the first three men to defy pickets at Rossington colliery in South Yorkshire and has since been subjected to abuse, assault and intimidation.

"I hve had the windows in my home smashed, my car badly damaged, I have been assaulted and I have been told in telephone calls that I am a dead man. Enough is enough. I want to bring this intimidation to an end."

● Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, appealed in

the Commons yesterday for working miners to come forward with evidence of intimidation.

His comments came in reply to Mr Gerald Howarth, Conservative MP for Cannock and Burntwood, who asked what steps had been taken to collect evidence that there was a conspiracy being organized by the NUM leadership which "would enable the conviction of the ringleaders".

Sir Michael told MPs that there was a scarcity of the evidence of intimidation that would be necessary before the Director of Public Prosecutions could initiate proceedings for conspiracy.

● The Home Office said yesterday that 1,305 police

officers have been injured so far in the mining dispute.

● The cost of policing the dispute in Nottinghamshire has exceeded £50 million.

● The battle for £2,700,000 held frozen in a Dublin bank by the striking miners will resume in the Irish Republic's High Court on January 31.

## The drift back to work (NCB figures)

Area	Attendance	New faces
Yorkshire	3,816	308
Western	6,369	75
N Derbyshire	5,271	208
South Wales	194	34
S Midlands	10,000	13
Nottinghamshire	26,640	9
North-east	4,162	473

'Estimate