

Scargill 'inciting violence'

From Our Correspondent
Cardiff

Mr Arthur Scargill, the president of the mineworkers union, was criticized last night by a man whose son is in jail. He blames Mr Scargill for inciting picket line violence.

Mr Mike Hyman wrote to Mr Scargill asking him to condemn picket line violence after his son Christopher, aged 18, had been sent to a detention centre for 60 days for throwing stones.

He was astonished when Mr Scargill, writing on NUM headed notepaper, replied saying he should be extremely proud of his boy. Mr Scargill 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."

He added; "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 Tolpuddle martyrs, the Chartists and those who built the Labour movement."

Mr Hyman, who lives near Newport, Gwent, said: "As far as I am concerned Mr Scargill is responsible for whipping men up and encouraging them to break the law."