

—Pit peace ultimatum to NUM chief—

MAGGIE MOVES IN FOR THE KILL



CRISIS IN THE PITS

'We want Scargill's guarantee in writing'

PREMIER Margaret Thatcher last night made it clear she wants **Arthur Scargill's** head on a plate in the pits war.

She went in for the kill and demanded he put down in writing his willingness to discuss closure of uneconomic pits.

The Premier insisted that anything less would be seen as a betrayal of miners who have braved picket line violence to get to work.

Mrs Thatcher, speaking in a TV Eye interview, made it clear she does not trust Mr Scargill's word, and said:

"We can't go on arguing what each side means or what each side says. Let's get it written down. Let's get the words clear. I want it dead straight, honest and no fudging."

"I have a horror of fudged words, fudged settlements. They never work. I like to be straight, I like to be clear and I like to be honest."

"I don't know why they are shying away from writing down exactly what they are thinking. They know why the talks have floundered."

Mrs Thatcher said the Government was determined not to desert the 77,000 miners who have braved picket-line violence to get to work.

She added: "But we also want to give hope to the striking miners."

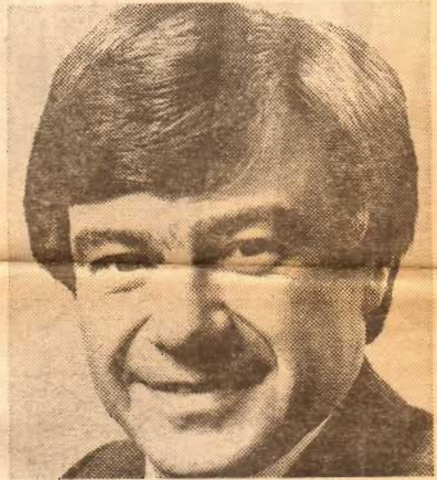
Deserted

"They weren't allowed a ballot. They have suffered terrible deprivations and must be worried to death about their debts."

In the Commons earlier Welsh Labour MP Gareth Wardell accused Mrs Thatcher of using "hardship as a weapon of



Maggie . . . cheered by Tories



Wardell . . . "She's vindictive"

PICKETS IN COACH FIRE RAID JAILED

By SIMON HUGHES

FOUR striking miners who carried out a £75,000 arson attack on a coach firm were each jailed for two years yesterday.

A fifth miner was sentenced to two years' youth custody for his part in the raid which destroyed three coaches.

The gang's target was Thomsons Tours of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, which ferried working pitmen to nearby Hemheath Colliery.

They struck after a boozy session on picket duty.

Judge Cecil Rigby, passing sentence at Stoke Crown Court, told the five they had "allowed their emotions and stresses to get the better of them."

He added: "I think I understand these emotions but I have a duty to the public."

A sixth miner, who is studying industrial relations on a union scholarship, was acquitted of aiding arson.

An arson charge against another miner was dropped.



Judge Rigby . . . "someone must pay"

MORE GO BACK

ANOTHER 200 miners returned to work yesterday, bringing the week's total so far to 3,160.

In Yorkshire, where 81 went back, Emley Moor Colliery became the sixth pit to resume production. An NCB spokesman there said: "The strike's a dead duck in Yorkshire."

And in militant South Wales 12 more miners went back yesterday, leaving the strike solid at only one pit in Gwent.

Coal is 'a bargain'

LABOUR Left-winger Tony Benn claimed last night that the collapse of the £ had destroyed all the Government's arguments about closing uneconomic pits.

He told a meeting in Camden, North London: "With the pound at just over a dollar, British coal is a bargain for exports. We need to dig every ton of it that is available."

By TREVOR KAVANAGH

MPs dig deeper

vindictiveness to get her own way."

The Iron Lady shouted back: "If there has been vindictiveness it is on the part of the leadership of the NUM and it has very nearly split its own union."

"The NUM leadership has deliberately put its members through privations when they have had the best offer on the table since nationalisation began."

● LABOUR MPs agreed unanimously last night to raise their voluntary levy to help striking miners from £5 a week to £12.

● The meeting at Westminster came after leader Neil Kinnock spoke of the "continuing and increasing" hardship suffered by pitmen and their families.