

Fight will go on if strike ends, Scargill says

By Richard Evans

If the miners decide at their delegate conference tomorrow to go back to work, the strike will end but "the fight and the dispute will go on", Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said last night.

He insisted that he would recommend the strike should continue, although he acknowledged a possibility that delegates could vote against him.

Mr Michael Eaton, the National Coal Board spokesman, predicted during a face-to-face interview with Mr Scargill on a special ITV programme, *The Miners Strike*, that it was "highly likely miners will return to work next week".

The two men clashed over the question of granting an amnesty to miners dismissed because of convictions for criminal offences during the year-long dispute.

"There will be no resolution of the dispute in the industry,

Miners at work yesterday

Area	New faces	Total	% at work
		at work	
Scotland	108	5,882	48.3
North-east	216	10,762	50.5
Yorkshire	1,014	11,581	23
Western	78	12,485	88
S Wales	87	1,564	8
N Derbs	119	8,707	82.3
S Midlands (incl Kent)	3	9,577	80.6
Notts	11	25,811	95.6

Source: NCB area offices

The figures in the table relate to miners at work yesterday and do not include non-strikers who were sick or on leave. Some area totals do not include white-collar and other categories of workers.

whether the strike ends or not, until the coal board grant that question of an amnesty", Mr Scargill said.

But Mr Eaton said that the number and seriousness of many of the crimes committed were far too great to give such an amnesty, "and we shall not do it".