

Confederation of British Industry



21 Tothill Street
London SW1H 9LP
Telephone 01-930 6711
Telex 21332
Telegrams
Cobustry London SW1

From the Director-General: Sir John Methven

4 Feb 1980

Dear Cavis,

Enclosed are two statements
which I put out yesterday.

Yours ever,

John
S

TIME FOR AN END TO INDUSTRIAL
ANARCHY - SIR JOHN METHVEN

Sir John Methven, Director General of the Confederation of British Industry, said today (Sunday February 3rd) : "This country is now entering a dangerous period with the steel union leaders losing no time in seeking to put a stranglehold on the British economy by extending their dispute to the private sector, whilst other trade union leaders still claim to preserve their right to stand above the law and to inflict immense damage upon our society - a right unparalleled in our history, and open to no other set of people in the UK.

"Many not involved in the steel dispute now stand, if the strike continues, to lose their jobs as orders are lost both at home and overseas. No wonder our overseas customers are beginning to write Britain off as a land controlled by unions who seem determined to make it impossible for industry to operate in a normal commercial manner.

"The general public, having lived through three major strikes in the last 12 months are sick and tired of the overwhelming power of the trade unions and the industrial anarchy which springs from it.

"The law as it stands is a licence for trade unions to destroy at their will individual businesses and even to blockade and throttle the trade of our country. No country can tolerate laws which are against natural justice. Whatever the resistance, profound changes must now be made in the laws relating to trade unions. They must be supported and enforced by all those of us who believe in fairness and equity, if we are to bring sanity back to our industrial relations scene".

ENDS. February 3rd., 1980.

- 4 FEB 1980

