

PRIME MINISTERCOAL DISPUTE: NOTTS MINERS COURT CASE

Mr. Walker rang to point out that, in giving his verdict in favour of the Notts miners, Justice Megarry had suggested that penalties could be enforced against the NUM if the Attorney General applied for them. I have asked the Attorney General to come to MISC 101 prepared to speak on this. We need to be clear whether it is the passing of the resolution or, as I think is the case, the taking of action under those resolutions which would be subject to penalties.

Mr. Walker also added, though he will not mention this at MISC 101, that he met the lawyers of the ^{Notts} NUM miners for about two hours last night. It emerged from this that the Notts miners will feel let down if, having raised the money for the case and pursued it through the courts, they are not supported by the Government in following it through.

BT

18 July 1984