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KINNOCK BLAMES PTIS 'HIT LIST'

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION NEIL KINNOCK TODAY BLAMED THE BREAKDOWN OF THE PTIS PEACE TALKS ON THE COAL BOARD'S REFUSAL TO WITHDRAW ITS 'HIT LIST' OF 20 MINES FACING CLOSURE.

THE COMPROMISE FORMULA BY THE CONCILIATION SERVICE ACAS COULD PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT IF IT INCLUDED WITHDRAWAL OF THE LIST AND A RETURN TO THE FORM OF NEGOTIATIONS ON PITS FOLLOWED BEFORE THE START OF THE DISPUTE, HE SAID ON BBC RADIO.

'ACAS COULD NOT EXTEND ITS CONSIDERATION TO THE MANAGERIAL DECISION OF THE NCB ABOUT THE 20 PITS', SAID MR KINNOCK.

'IF THOSE 20 PITS COULD GO BACK INTO A PROCEDURE WHICH WAS THEN ESTABLISHED, AS THE NEW BASIS ON WHICH CALCULATIONS WAS MADE ON EXHAUSTION, AND NEGOTIATIONS COULD TAKE PLACE ON NEW INVESTMENT, AN ACAS FORMULA COULD BE WORKABLE.'

HE DENIED A CONCESSION ON THE ISSUE BY THE COAL BOARD WOULD BE A 'SURRENDER OF MANAGERIAL PREROGATIVE.'

'IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF GIVING WAY, IT IS A QUESTION OF RESTORING THE PROCEDURE WHICH HAS EXISTED FOR MANY YEARS, AND WHICH RESULTED IN THE CLOSURE BY NEGOTIATION OF 79 PITS.'

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This demonstrates that Kinnock does not understand the issue behind the strike. At no time has the NCB proposed a change in closure procedure. All pits to be closed would be put through it, including Cartonwood.

At the meeting tonight, you might discuss how to expose his ignorance.

AT

16/10