

Max had

PA

MR SCHOLAR

cc Mr Rickett
Mr Ingham
Mr Mount O/R

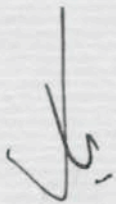
QUESTIONS: THE MINERS

It is possible that either tomorrow or on Thursday the Prime Minister will be asked what advice she has to give the miners in their forthcoming ballot.

There is a strong temptation to reply robustly - by, for instance, advising the miners to recall that there are 49 million tonnes of unused coal in Great Britain at present, and that all of it could have been imported at half the price. But we should not say anything before the ballot which might carry the implication that the Government intends to reduce the size of the industry further by pit closures.

So I suggest instead that the Prime Minister might reply as follows:

"I should advise them to accept an offer which promises a real increase in living standards over the coming year; and to reject the call for a strike, which can only worsen the prospects of the coal industry and those who work in it."



25 October 1982

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A. Scholar
a Mr. Venner

We discussed, by which
tell me that it would be
entirely counter-productive for
the Govt and especially the
Prime Minister to advise
the miners.

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QUESTIONS: THE MINERS

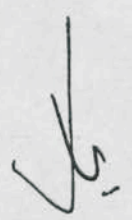
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