

PRIME MINISTER

MINERS' STRIKE

This note suggests, on the basis of what we know today, a synopsis for your speech in Wales on Saturday. On this basis it is also relevant to Questions this afternoon.

1. The issue before the country

- whether one tiny, but nonetheless important, minority is entitled to enforce its will on the majority
- thus the issue is whether the interests of majority over lawless minority will prevail
- the majority - and democracy - will prevail

2. The reality before the country

- so long as a mob, rampaging to baseball-capped general's radio controlled directions turns out, police society's and democracy's only defence
- solution does not lie in recourse to civil law seeking redress; solution lies in preservation of order and right of individuals to go about their peaceful business
- only police can preserve that order, that right in face of mob bent on imposing their will on society

3. The reality confronting miners

- law and order has been preserved over 15 weeks; will be preserved however long dispute lasts
- the country values its democracy even if some elements in the NUM and those who latch on to dispute don't

- our society is not going to be broken on wheel of their lawlessness - nor clearly are those miners in the Midlands and elsewhere who value their union's democracy

4. But other realities before the miners

- higher pay offer than others have got
- best redundancy terms for any industry in Britain, with examples
- every miner who wishes to stay in industry will be found job
- better prospects for miners' sons in competitive, low cost industry than present loss making mines
- Government investing as no Government in this country ever has done to achieve just such competitive, low cost industry - £2m a day
- why then NUM fighting battle and employing mob rule? Answer - because minority within union political revolutionaries not industrial representatives

5. Issue before trade union movement?

- if, as it claims, it is an integral and important part of our society it must demonstrate it
- has to persuade the British public it has something more constructive in its reflexes than striking; does it wish to create wealth or destroy it?
- but excesses of miners' strike demands something more - it demands unequivocal condemnation of violent means to industrial ends
- so far an almost deafening silence; where does trade union movement stand on law and order?

- and having decided that, where does it stand on propensity of one trade unionist to damage another

6. Issue before Labour Party

- understandable, in view of history and funding, it finds its relations with trade union movement difficult
- but as party which claims pretensions to office can - or should - have no difficulty on issue of law and order
- but Labour Party clearly has great difficulty; and daily demonstrates in the House its division, equivocation on this point
- cuts a poor figure beside Alliance parties who can at least see the wood for the trees
- Labour cannot be taken seriously as democratic party until it absolutely condemns, once and for all, picket line violence and proclaims historic purpose of picketing - peacefully to persuade and not to bully, intimidate

7. Where do we go from here?

- we shall uphold law and order
- we shall continue to work for and invest in an efficient, competitive, low cost coal industry
- we shall not be deflected from both purposes by mob
- but clearly consequences follow from strike so far for self damaged coal industry; miners have set themselves - and country and fellow trade unionists - back - and badly

- in interests of NUM, coal industry, trade union movement, and country that there is an immediate return to work. No way forward in strike. Still less in violence.

- our way of life will be preserved and protected from any private army assembled anywhere at anytime in this land

- the police will see to that with minimum of force necessary to protect society - and we must demonstrate our support for them.

BERNARD INGHAM
19 June 1984