

# High Court writ served on Scargill

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By Our Labour Editor

Committal proceedings were served yesterday against Mr Arthur Scargill that could put the president of the National Union of Mineworkers in jail for contempt of the High Court.

The papers were served on the miners' leader as he sat in the Labour Party conference hall at the Wintergardens, Blackpool. The action prompted Mr Eric Heffer, the party and conference chairman, to demand a review of lax security.

The move came during a debate on plans to reform the local party structure, and Mr Scargill said: "Someone representing the High Court came

up to me and handed me a writ. I was told it is committal proceedings to put me in prison.

"It is a demonstration of the lengths they will go to break the NUM. As far as I am concerned, they will not succeed. I am answerable to my members."

The papers, served by an official of the High Court accompanied by a *Daily Express* photographer, relate to a High Court ruling last Friday that made the miners' strike unlawful in Yorkshire.

Two miners from Manton Colliery, Mr Robert Taylor, and Mr Ken Foulstone, successfully applied to have the strike, now

is its thirtieth week, declared unlawful. It is understood that yesterday's committal move against Mr Scargill stemmed from that case.

It seems clear that the two Yorkshire miners will ask the High Court for the imprisonment of Mr Scargill on the grounds that he is in contempt of last week's declarations.

Mr Scargill has made no secret of his intention to ignore the court's decisions. His defiance was first broadcast on *Channel 4 News* on Friday night after the judge gave his rulings, and was repeated on Sunday after the miners' delegation to

the Labour Party conference met in Blackpool.

The legal notice gives Mr Scargill two days to appear in court on Thursday to answer the committal proceedings.

The notice alleges that he is in contempt for defying High Court orders that: (1) He should not threaten disciplinary proceedings against miners who cross NUM picket lines; and (2) He should not continue to declare the strike in Yorkshire as official when the court has ruled that it is not so.

The action takes the form of a committal order and an order for sequestration of national NUM funds.