

MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR A LITTLE OVER SEVEN MONTHS
WE HAVE BEEN LIVING THROUGH AN
AGONISING STRIKE.

THE MINERS' STRIKE WAS NOT OF THIS GOVERNMENT'S
SEEKING.

IT IS NOT OF ITS MAKING.

AND WE HAVE HEARD IN DEBATES AT THIS
CONFERENCE SOME OF THE INDIVIDUAL
STORIES OF INTIMIDATION AND TERROR THAT
HAVE MADE THIS DISPUTE SO DEEPLY REPUGNANT.

WE WERE REMINDED BY A COLLIERY MANAGER, MR. BEARD,
THAT THE NUM ALSO USED TO ACCEPT THAT A
PIT SHOULD CLOSE WHEN THE LOSSES WERE TOO
GREAT TO KEEP IT OPEN.

THE MINERS SET GREAT STORE BY
INVESTMENT IN NEW PITS AND NEW SEAMS.
UNDER THIS GOVERNMENT THAT IS HAPPENING
IN ABUNDANCE.

WE HEARD FROM TWO WORKING MINERS, JUST WHAT A
BARRAGE OF ABUSE AND WORSE - A GREAT
DEAL WORSE - THEY HAVE TO FACE AS THEY
TRY TO MAKE THEIR WAY TO WORK.

THE SHEER BRAVERY OF MEN LIKE THAT - AND
THOUSANDS LIKE THEM - WHO HAVE KEPT THE
MINING INDUSTRY ALIVE IS BEYOND PRAISE.

"SCABS" - THEIR FORMER WORKMATES CALL THEM.

SCABS? THEY ARE LIONS.

THEY DESERVE A CAMPAIGN MEDAL.

WHAT FOLLY FOR THE STRIKING MINER TO ATTACK HIS
WORKMATE.

NOT ONLY ARE THEY MEMBERS OF THE SAME
UNION BUT THE WORKING MINER IS SAVING
BOTH THEIR FUTURES.

IT IS THE WORKING MINERS WHETHER IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE,
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE, STAFFORDSHIRE, WARWICKSHIRE,
LANCASHIRE, LEICESTERSHIRE, NORTH WALES OR
SCOTLAND WHO HAVE KEPT FAITH WITH THOSE WHO
BUY OUR COAL, AND WITHOUT WHOSE CUSTOM
THOUSANDS OF JOBS IN THE MINING INDUSTRY
WOULD BE LOST ALREADY.

AND THEN WE HEARD - UNFORGETTABLY - FROM THAT
UNSURPASSABLE MRS. IRENE MCGIBBON WHO
TOLD US WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE THE WIFE OF
A WORKING MINER. SHE TOLD US OF THE
THREATS AND INTIMIDATION ENDURED BY
HERSELF AND HER FAMILY AND EVEN HER
ELEVEN YEAR OLD SON.

DID SHE COMPLAIN?

No, WHAT SHE ENDURED STIFFENED HER
RESOLVE.

IT TAKES A VERY SPECIAL KIND OF COURAGE TO

FACE THE PICKET LINE DAY AFTER DAY.

IT TAKES AS MUCH - PERHAPS EVEN MORE

- TO STAY AT HOME, TO RECEIVE THE THREATENING

PHONE CALLS, TO WAIT FOR THE BRICK THROUGH

THE WINDOW, THE MOB AT THE DOOR.

MEN AND WOMEN LIKE THAT ARE WHAT WE ARE PROUD
TO CALL "THE BEST OF BRITISH".
FOR SEVEN MONTHS THEY HAVE FACED THE
VIOLENCE THAT IS CENTRAL TO THE
STRATEGY OF THE PRESENT MINERS'
LEADERSHIP.

FOR SEVEN MONTHS THAT VIOLENCE HAS BEEN
ORCHESTRATED.

AND FOR SEVEN MONTHS IN THE BIGGEST
DOUBLESPEAK OF ALL TIME, THEY HAVE
BLAMED IT ON THE POLICE - WHO HAVE
RESPONDED IN A WAY WHICH MAKES OVERSEAS
VISITORS SAY YOUR POLICE ARE MARVELLOUS.

THAT VIOLENCE COULD BE STOPPED.

IT WAS STOPPED OUTSIDE THIS VERY HALL
BY A FEW WORDS FROM A LOUD HAILER AT
THE TRADE UNION CONFERENCE.

WHY ISN'T IT?

AND WHY DIDN'T THE TUC CONDEMN THE VIOLENCE
PERPETRATED ON THEIR OWN MEMBERS?

ITS OWN GUIDELINES ON PICKETING WERE
NOT HONOURED.

THEY MOUTHED A FEW RITUAL CONDEMNATIONS
OF VIOLENCE.

AS SOON AS THAT CONFERENCE WAS OVER IT
RESUMED AND REDOUBLED.

MR. CHAIRMAN, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE SIMULTANEOUSLY

TO DEPLORE VIOLENCE AND TO SUPPORT

THIS STRIKE.

THE TWO GO HAND-IN-GLOVE AND BRICK-

IN-HAND.

IT IS A SAD DAY FOR THIS COUNTRY WHEN A ONCE

GREAT BRITISH TRADE UNION RELIES ON

UGLY AND CONTINUOUS VIOLENCE - AGAINST

ITS OWN MEMBERS, AGAINST THE WIVES OF

THOSE MEMBERS, AGAINST THEIR CHILDREN:

EVEN AGAINST THE DOGS THAT GUIDE THE

BLIND IN THEIR OWN FAMILIES.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THE GOVERNMENT DID EVERYTHING WE
COULD TO PREVENT THIS STRIKE.

INDEED SOME WOULD SAY WE DID TOO MUCH.

WE GAVE THE MINERS:-

- THE BEST EVER PAY OFFER
- THE HIGHEST EVER INVESTMENT
- AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE PROMISE
THAT NO MINER WOULD LOSE HIS JOB
AGAINST HIS WILL.

WE DID THIS DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE BILL FOR THE
LOSSES IN THE COAL INDUSTRY WERE BIGGER THAN
THE BILL FOR ALL THE DOCTORS AND DENTISTS IN
ALL THE NHS HOSPITALS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IT IS IRONIC THAT

- OIL WHICH HAS TO BE WON FROM BENEATH
THE SEABED IN THE TEETH OF THE WIND
AND WAVES OF THE NORTH SEA
CONTRIBUTES £10 BILLION TO THE
EXCHEQUER, WHILE

- COAL WHICH IS WON FROM BELOW THE LAND
TAKES £1.3 BILLION OUT OF IT.

IT COMPETES FOR MONEY WITH THE WELFARE
STATE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THIS IS A DISPUTE ABOUT THE
RIGHT TO GO TO WORK OF THOSE WHO
HAVE BEEN DENIED THE RIGHT TO GO TO VOTE.

AND WE MUST NOT FORGET THE OVERWHELMING
MAJORITY OF TRADE UNIONISTS WHO ARE
UTTERLY SICKENED BY WHAT IS BEING DONE
IN THE NAME OF TRADE UNIONISM.
WHEN THIS STRIKE IS OVER WE MUST DO
EVERYTHING WE CAN TO ENCOURAGE MODERATE
AND RESPONSIBLE TRADE UNIONISM SO IT
CAN ONCE AGAIN TAKE ITS PLACE IN OUR
COMMUNITY.

MEANWHILE, WE ARE FACED WITH THE PRESENT

Leadership
~~EXECUTIVE~~ OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkERS.

~~THEY ARE NOT IGNORANT MEN.~~

~~THEY ARE FORMER MINERS THEMSELVES-~~

~~WHO HAVE THROUGH THEIR ABILITIES RISEN~~

~~TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THEIR UNION.~~

THEY KNOW THAT WHAT THEY ARE DEMANDING

FOR MINERS HAS NEVER BEEN GRANTED *either to*
miners or
TO ANY OTHER WORKER IN ANY OTHER

INDUSTRY.

WHY THEN DO THEY DEMAND IT?

WHY ASK FOR WHAT THEY KNOW CANNOT BE
CONCEDED?

THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE EXPLANATION:

THEY DO NOT WANT A SETTLEMENT.

THEY WANT A STRIKE.

THEY WANTED IT TO START.

THEY WANT IT TO GO ON.

~~WHY DO THEY WANT THIS?~~

AGAIN THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE ANSWER:

THEY WANT IT FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

THIS IS NOT AN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE,

THIS IS A POLITICAL STRIKE.

INDEED, THEIR PRESIDENT SAID SO FROM

THE BEGINNING.