

Britann condemns mob rule by miner on miner

COAL STRIKE

Both Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, and Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, declared in the Commons that the police had a duty to enable those who wished to go to work to do so.

Mr Brittan, in his statement, referred to the seriousness of the situation and stated that what was so horrifying was that mob rule was being inflicted by miner upon fellow miner.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, condemned violence and commented that the Home Secretary seemed to regard it as his function to stir up difficult situations instead of seeking to cool them down.

Mr Nicholas Lyell (Mid, Bedfordshire) after praising the miners' union for making strike action possible, asked the Prime Minister to condemn those who sought to frustrate them by violence and intimidation.

Above all the continued will she make it clear that there will be no repeat of the events at Silecky coke works under this Government and that the law will be firmly enforced?

Mr Thatcher: Most miners either want to go to work peacefully or to go to work to exercise their right to ballot. There are both peaceful, law-abiding pickets and those who wish to go to work to exercise their rights to go to work to their law-abiding business peacefully.

The police have powers to limit the number of pickets, to disperse excessive pickets, to stop vehicles carrying pickets if necessary. They have the resources and facilities for mutual support if they require it.

They will carry out their duty of upholding the rights of law-abiding citizens to go about their duty and will have the full support of the Government and of most of the people and the miners.

Dr David Owen, Leader of the SDP (Plymouth, Devonport) said that there must be no equivocation about upholding and enforcing the rule of law on pickets. But the Prime Minister should acknowledge, as she had said in her own words, that miners wished to work.

The anxiety (she continued) is not about redundancy but the feeling in many mining communities that there will be no jobs.

Would the Prime Minister look at BSC's industry Ltd which had created 19,000 jobs since 1978 in coal mining communities hit by closures? Would she consider introducing something similar, an NCB Industry Ltd, to create jobs for miners threatened by closures?

Mrs Thatcher replied that job creation activity by BSC had been successful, particularly in places like Corby. The way to keep jobs in coal was by concentrating production on the newest and excellent mines and trying to reduce production from loss-making mines.

That way (she said) there will be a good future in the coal industry for sales in Britain and in exports.

Mrs Thatcher: Governments over the years have presided have taken away national insurance surcharge, have taken away many of the top tax rates, which were stopping enterprise and taken away some of the taxation burden from people by raising the threshold and reducing the standard rate of income tax from 33p to 20p.

These are very welcome taxes taken away from people and taking the tax away on jobs was very welcome both to employers and employees alike. (Conservative cheers.)

The majority of miners are law-abiding, do not like violence or intimidation, want to go to work at the end of their work and have the right to ballot which is being denied them at present. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Michael Forsyth (Stirling, Cl) Arthur Scargill and his colleagues in the NUM believe there is a future for the loss-making pits. They have given them the opportunity by transferring them to lock, stock, and barrel to the NUM.

Mrs Thatcher: If they were to wish to have a management buy-out I very much welcome that, but I sympathise with the NUM.

Mr Alexander Eadie (Midlothian, Ed) Since she has announced she will not consent to a buy-out, Mrs Thatcher: If they were to wish to have a management buy-out I very much welcome that, but I sympathise with the NUM.

Mrs Thatcher: Who holds management posts is not a matter for ballot. Whether or not there should be a strike is a matter for ballots.

I do not recall the last Labour Government giving the right to ballot on whether they want Mr Ian MacGregor to remain the chairman of the NCB.

Mrs Thatcher: Who holds management posts is not a matter for ballot. Whether or not there should be a strike is a matter for ballots.

I do not recall the last Labour Government giving the right to ballot on whether they want Mr Ian MacGregor to remain the chairman of the NCB.

Mrs Thatcher: Who holds management posts is not a matter for ballot. Whether or not there should be a strike is a matter for ballots.

I do not recall the last Labour Government giving the right to ballot on whether they want Mr Ian MacGregor to remain the chairman of the NCB.

Mrs Thatcher: Who holds management posts is not a matter for ballot. Whether or not there should be a strike is a matter for ballots.

I need hardly underline the seriousness of this situation. The law permits picketing for the purpose of peacefully communicating and persuading. What it does not permit is what some of the Nottinghamshire miners themselves, who have been the victims of disgraceful conduct, have called mob rule and what is so horrifying is that it is mob rule that is being inflicted by miner upon fellow miner.

Miners have the right to take part in a free ballot. In North Wales, Warwickshire and Staffordshire yesterday they conducted a ballot to determine whether or not they will strike action. The ballot starts today at 6 pm and is open for 24 hours. That ballot will be protected and will go ahead.

A major coordinated police response, involving police officers from throughout the country, has been deployed to ensure that any miner who wishes to work at any pit may do so and any miner who wishes to vote may do so.

I have made clear to the chief constables concerned that they have my complete support in taking every measure open to them within the law to keep the peace and protect the right to work and to vote.

The objective of the police is to prevent intimidation, obstruction and other criminal offences. They have mobilised every available officer in order to disperse excessive numbers of pickets. The police have extensive powers under the common law, including, for example, the power to stop coaches, to stop people on foot who appear to be clearly intent upon joining mass picketing which has become intimidating.

Mr Brittan: He began what purported to be his questions on my statement with condemnation of violence whatever its cause or source might be. Every single word that he uttered after that showed that that condemnation was no more than a ritual.

Mr Brittan: He began what purported to be his questions on my statement with condemnation of violence whatever its cause or source might be. Every single word that he uttered after that showed that that condemnation was no more than a ritual.

Mr Brittan: He began what purported to be his questions on my statement with condemnation of violence whatever its cause or source might be. Every single word that he uttered after that showed that that condemnation was no more than a ritual.

Mr Brittan: He began what purported to be his questions on my statement with condemnation of violence whatever its cause or source might be. Every single word that he uttered after that showed that that condemnation was no more than a ritual.

Mr Brittan: He began what purported to be his questions on my statement with condemnation of violence whatever its cause or source might be. Every single word that he uttered after that showed that that condemnation was no more than a ritual.

Mr Brittan: He began what purported to be his questions on my statement with condemnation of violence whatever its cause or source might be. Every single word that he uttered after that showed that that condemnation was no more than a ritual.

Mr Brittan: He began what purported to be his questions on my statement with condemnation of violence whatever its cause or source might be. Every single word that he uttered after that showed that that condemnation was no more than a ritual.

Mr Brittan: He began what purported to be his questions on my statement with condemnation of violence whatever its cause or source might be. Every single word that he uttered after that showed that that condemnation was no more than a ritual.

Orders for UK from Thatcher Gulf trips

OMAN CONTRACT

The Prime Minister retaliated against her critics over the Oman visit and her family's alleged involvement by outlining to the Commons a list of projects which had brought jobs to Britain through the contract worth many millions. These had resulted from her visits to the Gulf.

Mrs Thatcher declared that she had not met Mr Jamil Aysuni, Middle East director of Ceneration, "in an official capacity". When she was asked a similar question on Tuesday, she said she had met "most people in the construction industry at one time or another".

Mr John Marek (Wrexham, Lab) raising the issue, asked: Why does the Prime Minister continue to put questions asked by Oman by Mr Peter Shore, shadow Leader of the House?

Because of the noise, she repeated: "What has she got to hide? Will she answer now whether she met Mr Jamil Aysuni, Middle East director of Ceneration Ltd, and, if so, when and where and what did they discuss?"

Mrs Thatcher: I do not meet him in an official capacity. (Labour interruptions) I do not answer in any other form from this dispatch box.

She said that she had not met him in any other form from this dispatch box. She said that she had not met him in any other form from this dispatch box.

She said that she had not met him in any other form from this dispatch box. She said that she had not met him in any other form from this dispatch box.

She said that she had not met him in any other form from this dispatch box. She said that she had not met him in any other form from this dispatch box.

She said that she had not met him in any other form from this dispatch box. She said that she had not met him in any other form from this dispatch box.

She said that she had not met him in any other form from this dispatch box. She said that she had not met him in any other form from this dispatch box.

She said that she had not met him in any other form from this dispatch box. She said that she had not met him in any other form from this dispatch box.

She said that she had not met him in any other form from this dispatch box. She said that she had not met him in any other form from this dispatch box.

She said that she had not met him in any other form from this dispatch box. She said that she had not met him in any other form from this dispatch box.

Sensible pay deals vital to success

THE BUDGET

The Budget presented to the Commons on Tuesday, was, in every real sense, a Budget for jobs, for a stronger economy and for a more prosperous Britain.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, said in the Commons when debate continued on the Chancellor's proposals.

He stated that recovery was underway. The outlook for the economy was brighter than it had been for years. There was momentum in the economy and the object of the Budget was to sustain and increase it.

Productivity was at record levels. Production costs were better controlled than they had been for 20 years. With that improvement came a promise of good jobs for unions and employers.

They could not afford to be complacent. It was vital for jobs that Britain was competitive. Sensible pay settlements and continued improvements in productivity were vital to Britain's future success.

The number of people in work increased by 80,000 between March and September 1983. This was the first increase for three years.

The latest figures showed that in December 1983 the January and February job centres had placed 390,000 people, compared with 335,000 for the equivalent previous period - an increase of 16 per cent - at a time when the unemployment figures were a little disappointing.

Another encouraging indicator was that executive advertising for management. Government funds management, was running this year at double last year's level. It was at the highest level for 20 years.

There had been a substantial increase in Government funds management to help employment and training. This year more than £400 million would be spent, as much as Labour spent in its last year of office. Some 670,000 jobs had benefited from measures.

Mr Charles Morrison (Devon, C) said he was disappointed not to see a commitment to the abolition of duty for on-course betting in order to improve attendance at race meetings.

Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, C) said the Chancellor had gone entirely wrong in his recommendation that life assurance tax relief should be withdrawn. The whole thrust of this Government's policies was to encourage thrift and the development of self-reliance and to create a property-owning democracy.

Mr Charles Morrison (Devon, C) said he was disappointed not to see a commitment to the abolition of duty for on-course betting in order to improve attendance at race meetings.

Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, C) said the Chancellor had gone entirely wrong in his recommendation that life assurance tax relief should be withdrawn. The whole thrust of this Government's policies was to encourage thrift and the development of self-reliance and to create a property-owning democracy.

Debate on fuel prices and poverty

THE MAIN BUSINESS

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Conclusion of the debate on the Budget.

Tuesday: Debate on Public Accounts Committee report on the Budget.

Wednesday: Debate on Opposition motion on fuel costs and foreign affairs and on the CAP.

Thursday: Private Member's Bill: Tobacco Products (Control of Advertising, Sponsorship and Sales Promotion) Bill, second reading.

The main business in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Telecommunications Bill, report, second day.

Tuesday: Telecommunications Bill, report, third day.

Wednesday: Debates on Highlands and Islands Development Board, on nuclear war, and on the prison service.

Thursday: Housing and Building Control Bill, report, first day.

Parliament today Commons (9.30): Prescription and Limitation Bill, Law Reform (Husband and Wife) (Scotland) Bill, and Video Recordings Bill, report stages.

Mr Brittan: The statement condemning the violence is extremely welcome. Everybody must make their own decision about what their conscience dictates.

Mr David Ashby (North West) said that the TUC General Secretary had condemned the violence, there had been no such condemnation by the President of the NUM or the Opposition Front Bench.

Mr Brittan: Those who want to work have the right to work and they will have all the protection the law can provide.

Mr Brittan: Those who want to work have the right to work and they will have all the protection the law can provide.

Police in Campbell case defended

HOME OFFICE

There was no reason to believe that the instructions to the Metropolitan Police concerning the Duncan Campbell case were anything other than reasonable.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Home Secretary, said today in the Commons that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner.

He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner. He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner.

He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner. He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner.

He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner. He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner.

He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner. He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner.

He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner. He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner.

He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner. He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner.

He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner. He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner.

He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner. He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner.

He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner. He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner.

He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner. He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner.

He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner. He said that the police had acted in a reasonable and proper manner.

**Coal Strike.**

*The Times* (London, England), Friday, Mar 16, 1984; pg. 4; Issue 61783. (2792 words)

**Category:** Politics and Parliament

© Times Newspapers Limited

**Gale Document Number:**CS67341936