

Official strike called

COAL DISPUTE

The massive police presence in the Midlands coalfields had provoked miners in Derbyshire into calling an official strike Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said in the Commons when he unsuccessfully sought an emergency debate

Calling attention to the police presence in the Midlands in particular, Mr Skinner said: There has been a great deal of intimidation by the police in the operation of their duties and account should be taken that as a result of that massive presence by police the Derbyshire miners at a meeting this morning have decided by a substantial

majority, to call an official strike in line with the rest of the coalfields that have already been on strike for more than a week.

Whereas the police were supposed to go into the Midlands coalfield on behalf of the Government to carry out their duties to try to stop strikes, the fact is that at the meeting this morning of the Derbyshire Miners' Council it was said that one of the reasons for the decision to call a strike, was because they were being provoked by the mass presence of police.

I have also just received information from a colleague that the police presence at Whitwell has resulted in a meeting there being called to a halt and police refusing to leave.

Coal Dispute.

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