

Scottish pledge to strike for miners

From David Felton
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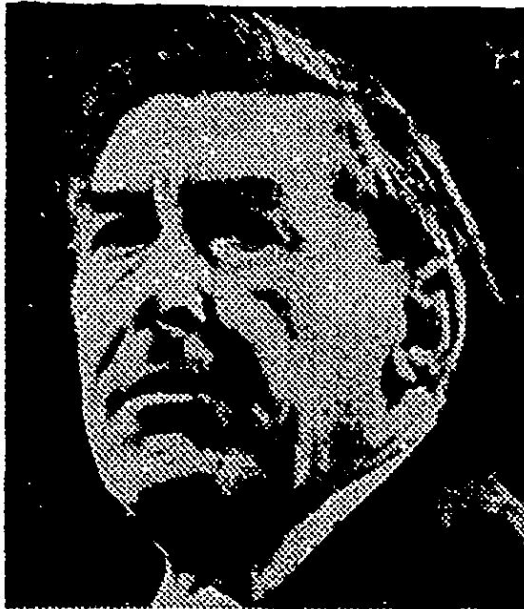
Miners yesterday won the first phase of the drive to turn the pit strike into a wider confrontation with the Government when leaders of almost a million Scottish trade unionists pledged to stage a 24 hour unlawful stoppage, probably on May day.

The call for a one-day strike and an appeal for financial help for the miners were agreed unanimously at the Scottish TUC in Aberdeen.

In an emotional debate watched by about 300 striking miners in the public gallery speaker after speaker characterized the dispute as a battle with the Government which the miners and the rest of the trade union movement could not afford to lose.

"If the miners lose the strike it will be the last strike we would fight for decades to come," Mr Jim Slater, general secretary of the National Union of Seamen, said.

The tone was set by Mr Michael McGahey, vice president of the National Union of Mineworkers, who told del-



Mr McGahey: "We will not be bought"

egates: "We are fighting for this country and we are telling this country we will not be bought off by your filthy money. We will keep our jobs and our dignity."

Many speakers urged that the one-day strike should be as wide as possible although a hint of difficulties lying ahead came from Mr Alex Kitson, deputy general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union. "We will leave it to our members' conscience and they have never been found wanting in the past," he said.

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The Times (London, England), Wednesday, Apr 18, 1984; pg. 2; Issue 61809. (261 words)

Category: News

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Gale Document Number:CS34180754