

Powell critical of archbishop backing miners

Mr Enoch Powell, MP for Down, South and himself an active churchman, accused the Archbishop of York of religious bankruptcy in a speech to the Cambridge University Conservative Association yesterday. The archbishop, Dr John Habgood, had written to Durham miners supporting their strike against pit closures.

Millions of people, Mr Powell said, condemned the miners. "If the miners are at fault, how much more so are those whom society has placed in a position to teach, to enlighten, and to lead".

He said the archbishop advocated the working of pits which were no longer viable, which he called "real and flagrant immorality".

● Dr Habgood said later that Mr Powell seemed to ignore his letter's first paragraph, which referred to the excellent record of pit closures in Durham over the past 25 years (the Press Association reports).

● More than 1,400 miners in Mr Michael Foot's constituency of Blaenau Gwent have been issued with food vouchers worth £10 after a unanimous decision by the local borough council (Tim Jones writes).

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