

Scargill's arrest and pit riot shatter peace hope

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Hopes for an early settlement of the miners' strike faded yesterday as tension rose after the arrest of Mr Arthur Scargill, the pitmen's leader, and fresh outbreaks of violence on the picket lines.

Striking miners invaded the London headquarters of the National Coal Board, and police declared a "riot situation" outside the Orgreave coking works in South Yorkshire where thousands of miners again tried in vain to halt the movement of supplies destined for the fuel-starved British Steel plant in Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire.

Mr Scargill, aged 46, was arrested early yesterday leading a column of pickets to the cokeworks, and was released on unconditional bail by Rotherham magistrates after pleading not guilty to a charge of obstruction. He told reporters: "I will continue to do my job leading the miners on the picket lines at Orgreave."

That comment from the president of the National Union of Mineworkers suggests that he will not be available for peace talks with the board that were due to begin yesterday, as the "rolling strike" nears the end of its twelfth week.

Mr Scargill was leading about fifty miners towards the cokeworks when police officers told them they could go no further. He said: "No way, no way." He was making his way to a spot where some pickets stood the previous day, but after further verbal exchanges he was taken away in a police van.

As he was led off by two officers, he shouted to reporters: "1984 - Great Britain." Asked

if he had intended to be arrested, he replied: "No, all I wanted to do was to picket peacefully." He told the arresting officers: "I wanted to be where we were yesterday. You have just obstructed my path and arrested me for no reason whatsoever."

He and the other two national officials of the union, the vice-president, Mr Michael McGabey, and the general secretary, Mr Peter Heathfield, are over the next few days scheduled to engage in the first dialogue aimed at settling the bitter dispute, but the prospects of a deal look more remote than ever in the wake of yesterday's events.

For the second day running, police in riot gear carrying shields cleared a way for convoys off lorries to take coking coal to the BSC plant despite a barrage of missiles from about 3,000 pickets.

When the miners dispersed, police said they left behind barricades, a telegraph pole "battering ram," barbed wire, a burning Portakabin and a wire stretched across the road intended to bring down police horses.

After the second convoy had got through, the toll was 35 arrests of pickets and 16 people injured, most of them policemen. A police horse, *Argyle*, had a cut leg. Mr Tony Clement, assistant chief constable of South Yorkshire, blamed much of the violence on drink but suggested that the upsurge in violence could lead to more serious charges than public order or obstruction offences.

"This situation changes things," he said. "We shall be looking at the evidence in relation to the people arrested, to see whether other charges should be preferred."

Among the missiles that police said had been found were a 2lb hammer, an 18-inch cast iron pipe, a steel coach-bolt and steel nuts with nails.

The coal board came under renewed pressure from the Police Federation and Dr David Owen, Social Democratic Party leader, to go back to the High Court with an application for contempt proceedings against the Yorkshire miners, who have been served with an injunction restraining them from organizing secondary picketing in defiance of the Employment Act, 1980.

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation blamed the Government's "dirty tricks department" for bringing about the violence at Orgreave. The union said the objective was to smash the agreement between the Scunthorpe steelworkers and the Yorkshire miners to supply 15,700 tonnes of coal a week to the steel plant.

Miners leaders decided last night to hold a mass rally in London on June 7, with a lobby of parliament.

● Mr Malcolm Pitt, the president of the Kent area of the NUM, was further remanded in custody yesterday when he was refused bail on an obstruction charge at Ramsgate magistrates' court. Mr Pitt made an unsuccessful 15-minute appeal to be released on unconditional bail.

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7.40 am and miners leader is held



Mr Scargill being arrested on the picket line at Orgreave. (Photograph: John Arthur)

Iraq claims ship hit in Gulf

From Robert Fisk
Bahrain

Despite unpublicised appeals to Iraq from the Gulf states to de-escalate the war, Iraq announced last night that its air force had attacked and hit

Selling wipes £4.6 billion off shares in biggest-ever fall

By William Kay, City Editor

The London stock market plunged again yesterday, wiping an estimated £4.6 billion off the value of shares, the biggest loss so far in cash terms. Since the market's record peak on May 3, losses total £19 billion, according to Datastream, the City

hour later, suddenly extended the fall to 21.0 at noon. By the last reading at 5pm it was 22.8 down at 803.4, the biggest one-day closing fall since the day after the February 1974 election. It reached 922.8 on May 3.

Later Wall Street stock prices were lower, but blue chip issues staged a late afternoon rally, bringing the Dow closer to the 1,100 level.

The Dow, which had been as low as 1087, was off only 3½

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