# Walker challenges unions to refuse support for Scargill and strikers

By Anthony Revine Political C

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, yesterday challenged the TUC to refuse support for Mr Arthur Scargill and the striking miners. He told a Young Conserva-tive summer school in Man-chester: "The coal board loses millions of pounds and coalface after coalface is destroyed by neglect.

The country suffers from violence, loss of production, and loss of markets. The simple fact is that there would have been no trouble for the TUC, the NUM, the coal board or the country if the NUM had complied with its normal procedure and held a ballot before a strike took place. "The rejection of that pro-cedure has brought division and misery. The TUC this week has a duty to be the true voice of its members and not an expression of a minority political view-point."

Mr Walker, fresh from a it will be damaging to the holiday in Greece, said that prospects of full employment opinion poll after opinion poll showed that most trade union-ists wanted the miners to ballot, and were not willing to support Mr Scargill in any way.

It was time that the NUM joined with the coal board and the Government to agree an extension of the *Plan for Coal* which would make Britain "the greatest coal producing nation in western Europe".

Mr Walter said: "If instead of this the TUC wish to encourage the NUM executive, under the pressures of its president, to continue with the president, to continue with the use of an army of mob pickets that has already been charged with more than 5,000 criminal offences; if the TUC is willing to encourage the continuance of conflict against the steel indus-try and power-using industries up and down the country, then

He said in an article in He said in an article in *The* Sunday Times that the NUM leader had "lied" in his efforts to bolster support for the strike, that he had a political prefer-ence for conflict rather than cooperation, that he had been leading the "mod" when picket line violence had peaked at Orgreave, and that he had "plotted" to deprive the miners of a ballot.

of a ballot. Mr Walker's comments were all the more remarkable in the light of the Prime Minister's view that commenting on the urrent disputes was "like current disputes was treading on eggshells".

Mr Walker compared Mr Scargill's attitude to ballots to that of the Polish socialist state and said: "The TUC and the Labour Party have to decide whether they are going to appear as Mr Scargill's lackeys."

The Sunday Times print run was delayed after union leaders, in Brighton, objected to the article, and to another by Mr Frank Chapple.

A Whitehall source A Whitehall source said yesterday that a majority of a 10-strong panel of stipendiary magistrates has to be specific-cally appointed, late last month to deal with the backlog of picketing cases in Rotherham and Chesterfield.

### General council's ruling group to lose seats to left

By David Felton, Labour Correspond

that the left will lose one of the six senis it holds, it will make inroads in other areas. The main changes, ironi-cally, will flow from the principle of automatic rep-resentation for unions with more than 100,000 members, which this year will number 33 seats and to which the left has been strongly opposed. The right-wing Amalga-mated Union of Engineering Workers, which last year affiliated more than a million members to the TUC, giving it four seats on the general council, will this year have only three because its membership has failen.

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent The centre-right group which conntols the TUC general council is likely to see its influence diminish this weak with the left picking up extra governing body. Election results for 11 of the 50 seats on the council will be announced in Brighton tomor-row and although it is possible that the left will lose one of the six seats it holds, it will make inroads in other areas. The main changes, Ironi-

Some criticism by the union's conference earlier this year of the general council members', weing record may persuade them to side with the left, particularly on issues such as opposing the employment legis-lation.

lation. Another unknown quantity will be the voting pattern of Mir Norman Willis, who will take over from Mr Len Murrey as TUC general secretary at the end of the week. The general secretary votes only on important issues and in the controversial decision not to back the challenge to the labour

the controversial decision not to back the challenge to the labour laws by the National Graphic Association, Mr Murrey voted against the left. In the 11-seat section for unions with fewer that 100,000 members the right could gain a seat through Mr William McCall, leader of the pro-fessional civil servants' IPCS, who is said to be making strong showing in the lobbying for votes. The left-winger most vulnerable is thought to be Mr Alan Sapper, general secretary Alan Sapper, general secretary of the cine technicians' union.

The new general council will take over at the end of Congress on Friday

### Pit debate today

By Barrie Clement

By Barrie Clement The most important motions will go before the TUC Con-gress today and tomorrow. This afternoon delegates will debate the miners' strike and the Government's ban on trade unions at the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenbam. at Cheltenham.

Tomorrow, trade union legis-lation is on the agenda together with labour market policy, social insurance and industrial welfare. On Wednesday there will be

debates on education, economic policy, where unemployment will be the dominant issue, and the movement's campaign against privatization.

against privatization. Motions on equal rights and international matters will be debated on Thursday. Friday, the final day, will be dominated by the election of a successor to Mr Len Murray.

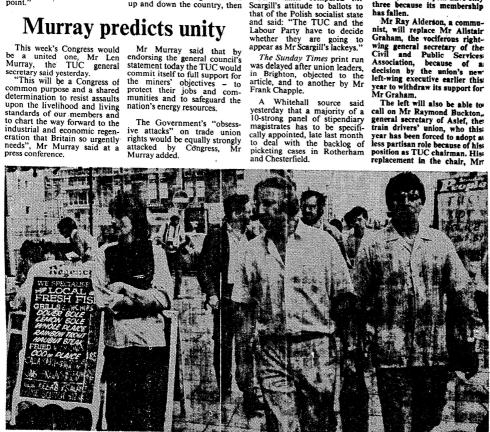
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## Murray predicts unity

This week's Congress would be a united one, Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary said yesterday. "This will be a Congress of common purpose and a shared determination to resist assaults upon the livelihood and living standards of our members and to chart the way forward to the industrial and economic recenindustrial and economic regen-eration that Britain so urgently needs", Mr Murray said at a

Mr Murray said that by endorsing the general council's statement today the TUC would commit itself to full support for the miners' objectives - to protect their jobs and com-munities and to safeguard the nation's energy resources.

The Government's "obsess ive attacks" on trade union rights would be equally strongly attacked by Congress, Mr Murray added.



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By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent.

The Times (London, England), Monday, Sep 03, 1984; pg. 4; Issue 61926. (1241 words)

Category: News

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