

Pit strike vote upsets leader

Labour rejects Kinnock's reselection proposal

- The Labour conference rejected a proposal backed by Mr Kinnock for "one member, one vote" for reselecting MPs
- Labour's delegates carried motions condemning police violence and called for laws to restrict police action during strikes
- Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, was served with a writ that could lead to his being jailed for contempt of court
- The coal board greeted coolly a suggestion by Labour politicians and the pit deputies' union for arbitration on the miners' strike (Page 2)
- Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, accused Labour of "taking leave of its senses" in its condemnation of police violence
- A senior police officer who helped two working miners defy picket lines later condemned "raw and naked intimidation" (Page 2)

From Julian Haviland
Political Editor
Blackpool

The Labour Party conference, while proclaiming its support for Mr Neil Kinnock, the leader it elected a year ago, yesterday refused to follow his advice and change the troublesome rules governing the reselection of Labour MPs.

The proposed change was the first contentious matter to which Mr Kinnock had publicly lent his full authority, and so deliberately hazarded his standing in the party.

In earlier votes, on the miners' dispute, the conference had already embarrassed Mr Kinnock by throwing its weight behind the view that all the violence in the dispute is caused by the police. Mr Kinnock had striven to keep mention of that out of the debate and at the Trades Union Congress had criticized picket violence.

The immediate effect of the reselection vote, in which the conference rejected his guidance by a ratio of seven to six, was therefore hurtful to him. It was also worrying for the two or three dozen Labour MPs who are in some fear under the present rules of losing the support of their local parties and being dumped.

The change was intended to increase their protection when the reselection process begins in December by giving them at



Labour's leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, listening to a debate yesterday. (Photographs: Bill Warhurst)

least the chance of appealing over the heads of hostile activists to the full membership.

As so often, the conference spoke yesterday with more than one voice. It twice rejected, by more than two million votes or more than two to one, resolutions which demanded no change.

Some in the party leadership were able to argue from that last night that the conference had therefore voted for change, and

that Mr Kinnock and the new national executive committee, to be elected today, might be entitled to delay reselection for 12 months while a more acceptable formula is found.

But the specific Kinnock plans, devised by Mr John Evans, MP for St Helens North and moved by him on behalf of the NEC, was rejected by 3,041,000 votes to 3,592,000. That had been half feared. But the platform was then left

How the votes were cast

Motion	For	Against
	(millions)	
MINERS AND POLICE		
Concern over police action; want accountability	4.117	2.485
	CARRIED	
Condemns police violence; next Labour Govt to pass law keeping police out of strikes		
	CARRIED on show of hands	
ONE MAN, ONE VOTE		
NUM postponing any decision	2.282	4.320
	LOST	
NEC One man one vote for setting MPs	3.041	3.592
	LOST	
Attack on NEC for raising issue	2.158	4.359
	LOST	
Accept principle, delay a year	2.066	4.533
	LOST	



Mr Arthur Scargill emphasizing a point during his speech to Labour Party delegates

Bank of England rescues leading bullion dealer

By Peter Wilson-Smith
and Michael Prest

The Bank of England has masterminded a multi-million pound rescue package for one of the City's top bullion dealers, Johnson Matthey Bankers, after potential losses estimated at £100m to £150m were uncovered on loans to commercial customers.

The Johnson Matthey Group consists essentially of two parts, Johnson Matthey Bankers and a wide variety of industrial interests.

The banking side, which has been taken over by the Bank of England, covers bullion trading, commodities dealing and commercial banking. It is one

will not have to put any money into Johnson Matthey Bankers. However, Johnson Matthey plc has had to take a loss of £150m as a result of the failure of its banking subsidiary. It has lost its entire £102m investment in the bank and has also had to put up a further £50m of capital as part of the rescue.

To help safeguard the future

Labour 'No' to Kinnock reselection proposal

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to make MPs more obedient to conference decisions and to local activist opinion, and they did not want their creation tampered with.

Mr Arthur Scargill took the conference by storm with his appeal for support for his miners and their "historic struggle".

Many delegates were unhappy with an NUM resolution which put all the blame for picket line violence on the police and, behind them, on the Government. But the one cautionary speech, from Mr David Basnett, of the municipal workers, was heckled. And the only dissenting one, from Mr Eric Hammond, of the electricians, roused such anger that the chairman had to intervene.

● In the wake of the setbacks at the conference, Mr Kinnock last night unreservedly condemned violence on the miners' picket lines and acknowledged the effect of the strike on the recent fall in the party's popularity (Philip Webster writes).

In an interview on BBC Television's *Panorama* programme, Mr Kinnock said that he had exercised what power he had during the dispute in trying to promote a settlement and in putting the miners' case. No one could accuse him of being reluctant to criticize violence.

He was well aware of his concern about violence on the picket line, but "I am not in a position to say to the president of the NUM: 'I order you, I demand that you do this, that, and the other thing'".

Mr Kinnock said the NUM had organized mass picketing, but he was sure that it had not organized any form of violence.

On the reselection vote, Mr Kinnock said that the argument he favoured for the extension of the franchise to all party members had prevailed in the debate but it was beaten because of fears about the machinery chosen to implement it.

● A shift to the left in the composition of Labour's national executive committee will be announced today (our Labour Editor writes). The most spectacular casualty is Mr Roy Evans, general secretary-elect of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, who lost his seat to the hard-left secretary of the Scottish miners, Mr Eric Clarke. Another casualty on the moderate wing is expected to be Mrs Ann Clwyd, MP.

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From Julian Haviland Political Editor.

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