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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Press Secretary

LORD PRESIDENTBUDGET PRESENTATION

The Chancellor is proposing to make some reference to the cost of the coal strike, and presumably how it is being met, in the Budget.

It will be a difficult Budget, but it would acquire some political punch if the issue of the cost of the coal strike it fixed responsibility for the cost on one man - Scargill. If there isn't to be a Scargill surcharge, there should at the very least be an identified Scargill cost.

It might be possible to include in the speech an itemised list of cost clearly understandable to the man on the Clapham omnibus - viz:-

"The cost of Mr Scargill's strike adds up to:

- £A for extra oil burn
- £B for keeping the Queen's Peace
- £C for damage inflicted on NCB equipment and property
- £D for extra costs to steel industry
- £E for cost to British Rail; etc.

"All this adds up, taking account of such offsets as wages not paid during the strike, to Mr Scargill costing the nation - the taxpayer - £F so far. That is the price we must all pay for the buck stops with the taxpayer.

"Mr Scargill has cost:

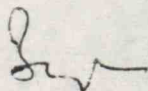
- £X for every man, woman and child in Britain
- £Y for every British taxpayer
- £Z for every old age pensioner.

"The money we have spent on this man could have bought:

- an x reduction on income tax
- a y increase in retirement pension; etc.

"Mr Scargill is clearly the most expensive trade union leader in history and not only does the taxpayer know it; so do his members for they lost an average £8000 during the strike and as taxpayers also have to foot their share of the total bill."

You may care to consider.



BERNARD INGHAM
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