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Scargill challenged on pensions

Criticisms by Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the miners' union, of the way the £3,000m mineworkers' pension scheme had been managed were challenged in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Hugh Jenkins, the fund's investment director, said in written evidence that it would be unfair if the impression were

to be gained that the fund's managers had been backward in investing directly in industrial or development projects in Britain.

His evidence is being read to the judge, Sir Robert Megarry, in the dispute between the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers' representatives on the fund

management committee over how best to use its investment assets.

They are in deadlock after the union side blocked the latest investment strategy proposals, saying it wanted no more direct investments overseas.

The hearing continues on Monday.