

# Scargill says £1,000 fine paid without his authority

**Times** 18 OCT 1984 By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The £1,000 fine imposed on Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, for contempt of court has been paid by an unnamed person.

A banker's draft to the value of £1,000 was delivered to the High Court accounts office on Tuesday, several days before the expiry of the October 24 deadline for payment.

Mr Paul Jabbal, deputy clerk at the office, said: "I cannot reveal who paid the fine but they said they were solicitors acting on behalf of Mr Scargill. Naturally if someone says that, we assume they are his legal advisers."

But yesterday Mr Scargill denied it was anyone acting for him. "I have no knowledge of

the fine being paid and it has been done without my authority or permission."

"The solicitors acting on my behalf were made aware that I was not prepared to pay the fine. They have no knowledge of who is responsible for this action."

Mr Michael Selfert, Mr Scargill's London solicitor, confirmed that Mr Scargill was mystified. "He has told me he has not authorized anyone to pay it because he does not consider he has committed a crime or acted incorrectly."

Payment of Mr Scargill's fine effectively ensures that he will not be able to incur the full penalties of continuing to defy the courts

The £200,000 fine also imposed for contempt on the National Union of Mineworkers, however, is still outstanding and if unpaid by October 24, is unlikely to lead to court orders for freezing all or part of the union's assets.

So far as Mr Scargill is concerned the court will consider his contempt purged. Mr Jabbal said: "The fine has been paid and we inform the court accordingly. That is the end of the matter. We are in no position to refuse it."

Last night a leading authority on court procedure said that it was unlikely that the court could decide that the fine should be paid personally by Mr Scargill.