

Scargill defiant

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By TERRY PATTINSON

on jail threat

A DEFIANT Arthur Scargill said last night that he would ignore a writ which ordered him to appear in the High Court tomorrow.

The miners' president said: "I will be with my delegation at the Labour Party Conference in Blackpool."

Orders will be sought in court that Mr. Scargill should be jailed or fined for contempt.

The writ was issued after Mr. Scargill scornfully dismissed a High Court ruling that the pit strike in Yorkshire and Derbyshire was unlawful.

Mr. Scargill said he did not think it would alienate anybody if he boycotted the hearing.

He added: "There are occasions when people have to take a stand and if that means we defy

what we consider an unjust and biased decision of a court of law, then so be it."

In Doncaster, the Coal Board agreed to consider on Friday a plan to bring in an independent arbitrator when they and the NUM can't agree on pit closures.

The proposal came during talks with NACODS, the pit deputies' union.

A similar plan has been floated by Labour's Energy spokesman Stan Orme.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock cut out references to it in his party conference speech yesterday so as

not to prejudice any chances of its success.

But Coal Board chairman Ian MacGregor is unlikely to be enthusiastic because he sees it as removing the Board's right to manage.

A police chief claimed yesterday that the pits strike was being used to advance the Marxist cause.

Chief Superintendent Stuart Anderson warned the public that the peace and tranquillity of life was threatened as never before.

He told a conference of police officers in Harrogate: "We alone have preserved the rule of law and democracy."

Former Coal Board chief Lord Ezra said in London that high-cost pits must be replaced by low-cost pits using new technology.