

Scargill - 8 OCT 1984 'must obey courts'

By Our Political Correspondent

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, predicted yesterday that Mr Arthur Scargill and the National Union of Mineworkers would be brought to heel by the High Court.

He said in a BBC radio interview on *The World The Weekend*: "Ultimately, a court order has to be obeyed". He added: "The judges, in my view, will ensure that the proper orders of the court are observed".

Sir Michael emphasised that Wednesday's resumed contempt proceedings, adjourned by Mr Justice Nicholls last Wednesday so that Mr Scargill could reconsider his defiance of the court, had nothing to do with either Conservative legislation or with Mr MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board.

He said: "It is two Yorkshire miners saying that their union is breaking the rules".

The Government would have to stand on the sidelines because contempt proceedings were entirely out of minister's hands. But Sir Michael said that the judge had a number of options open to him.

"It may well be that the first course will be a very substantial fine, and then there may be sequestration."

He was then asked if imprisonment might be the next step. He said: "If continuing contempt, much broadcast and much advertised is maintained it may well be that he will have to take that course."

● Mr Stuart Bell, Labour MP for Middlesbrough, yesterday accused Sir Michael of flouting his own rules of subjudice and trying to influence the judge (the Press Association reports).

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