

# Support by Heffer for Scargill call

By Julian Haviland  
Political Editor

Mr Arthur Scargill's latest call, in the Labour Party's newspaper *Labour Weekly*, for the trade union and Labour movement to mobilize in support of the mineworkers' union, was yesterday endorsed by Mr Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Liverpool Walton and former chairman of the party.

Mr Heffer said that in 1972, when five London dockers were imprisoned after defying the Industrial Relations Court, the Government led by Mr Edward Heath climbed down after the TUC General Council decided to call the first general strike since 1926.

Taking up Mr Scargill's statement that the decision of the courts to appoint a receiver to run the affairs of the NUM was a threat to the Labour movement, Mr Heffer said it was agreed at a meeting between leaders of the NUM and Labour's National Executive Committee on Thursday that there should be stronger action to combat the actions of the courts.

# High Court confirms receiver for NUM

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Working miners yesterday claimed to have made legal history when a High court judge confirmed the appointment of a receiver for the funds of the National Union of Mineworkers. The decision, they argued, could have wide ramifications for the labour movement.

The receiver, Mr Michael Arnold, who is a senior partner in a large City firm and who replaced Mr Herbert Brewer, the Derbyshire solicitor, will have control over the union's funds and assets for several months and could continue for up to two years if the union refuses to purge its contempt of court.

Mr Justice Mervyn Davies, giving judgement in the case brought by 16 working miners, mainly from the Nottinghamshire area, rejected arguments put forward by Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, that the union's senior officials were only acting on instructions from its national executive committee when they sent the £8.9 million funds to foreign banks.

The judge said that he did not

think there was any other course open to him than to confirm the receivership and the removal of Mr Scargill, Mr Michael McGahey, the union's vice-president, and Mr Peter Heathfield, the general secretary, as trustees of the funds. It was not clear last night whether the NUM intended to appeal against the decision.

Mr Colin Clarke, leader of the working miners, said after the hearing that it was not their intention to halt the union's operations. "All we want to do is stop this money gallivanting all over the world so that our membership's funds will not be wasted in the future", he said.

Despite that statement, the combination of the operations of the receiver and the sequestrators will mean that the union will find it very difficult to continue normal business.

A decision on how long the receiver will remain at the NUM will depend on whether the union appeals, or not if it is successful in pressing for an expedited full trial of the issue.

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