

# Scargill fined for obstruction

By Peter Davenport

Mr Arthur Scargill, the mineworkers' president, was found guilty yesterday of two charges of obstruction during mass picketing of the Orgreave coking plant in the early months of the miners' dispute.

He was fined a total of £250 and ordered to pay prosecution costs up to a maximum of £750.

Mr William Probert, a stipendiary magistrate, sitting at Rotherham, South Yorkshire, told Mr Scargill: "I take the view that your actions on that morning demonstrated a poor example to those you seek to lead. "I have taken into account everything said on your behalf and the difficulties your actions gave to those officers engaged in the preservation of law and order at Orgreave."

Mr Scargill displayed no emotion as the verdicts were given but outside the court, surrounded by a crowd of shoppers and supporters, he appeared unchastened.

Mr Scargill said last night he was not going to appeal against his conviction yesterday.

He added: "I am not going to

appeal against this sentence or this judgement because in this political climate I have no faith in getting a fair trial and certainly no faith in getting a fair judgement from the courts."

Mr Scargill was asked if the court's decision would stop him joining further picket lines. He replied: "Why should it? I have not been charged with any offence in connection with picketing because it is not an offence."



Mr Scargill talking to reporters yesterday

Mr Scargill had pleaded not guilty to obstructing the highway outside the Orgreave plant on May 30 and not guilty to obstructing Chief Supt John Nesbitt in the execution of his duty on the same day.

The court had seen repeated showings of a brief BBC news video film which shows Mr Scargill's arrest.

The prosecution said that police had warned Mr Scargill and his supporters to keep moving. When approached a second time he refused to move on the court was told.

Mr Scargill denied that the first conversation had taken place and alleged that there had been a deliberate plot to arrest him.

Mr Scargill was fined £50 for obstructing the highway and £200 for obstructing Chief Supt Nesbitt.

Mr Michael Mansfield, Mr Scargill's counsel, told the court that Mr Scargill had not been receiving salary during the dispute and he was not in a position to pay heavy fines or costs.