

Liberation Army are proud of census are to be produced.

Pit not on 'hit list' 8-7-82

By Keith Harper,
Labour Editor

The National Coal Board said last night that, while Hatfield Colliery, near Doncaster, was going through a sticky patch, it was not on a hit list and it was not about to close.

The board said that it had spent £6 million in exploring more than 30 million tons of

new reserves at Hatfield. These developments would raise output from 700,000 tonnes a year to a million by the end of the decade.

The board admitted that the pit had been uneconomic, and that it had also spent another £15 million on a computerised coal preparation plant at the pit.

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Yorkshire pit 'on NCB hit list' 9-7-82

By Keith Harper,
Labour Editor

The National Coal Board may close Hatfield pit in Yorkshire, which employs 1,500 men as part of its so-called hit list. The closure plan has not been discussed with Yorkshire representatives of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Mr Jack Taylor, the area president, said last night that he had heard nothing about the proposal from the NCB and was surprised that Hatfield should be under threat. He did not believe that the pit was uneconomic. But the Guardian understands that Hatfield is among those being discussed for closure.

In another pit closure development on the day the union conference at Inverness discussed the issue, the president Mr Arthur Scargill announced that at a recent meeting Mr James Cowan, the NCB vice-chairman, had told him and Mr Mick McGahey, the union vice-president, that two further pits were on a closure list. Mr Norman Siddall, the board's chairman, who attended the conference yesterday, said that he had no knowledge of what Mr Cowan had said.

During the debate delegates called for industrial action to

fight pit closures and the threat of privatisation to the industry and their jobs.

Mr Siddall told the conference that the board had not been withholding information. "Your areas know exactly which pits in their coalfield are in difficulty. There is no mystery about it

The most stirring contribution to the debate came from Mr McGahey, who argued that the board would not produce a hit list because it would unite the miners.

Running through the debate was privatisation, another fear among miners. Mr Terry Thomas, the Swansea agent, said that the Government planned to allow privately licensed pits to operate with up to 100 men instead of 30 at present under the 1947 Act nationalising the industry.

Mr Siddall later said that a licensing move would not necessarily amount to a significant threat to the industry, since licensed pits only produced £1 million worth of coal each year.

He was given a polite but muted reception by delegates, who had earlier been stirred into loud applause in support of Kent miners fighting the threat to partially close the Snowdown pit.

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