

Nat. Ind.

1. 2. 80

LORD DIPLOCK

My Lords. For the reasons which I will give in writing later I do not think that there are any relevant differences between this case and the case of the Daily Express v. McShane that was recently decided by this House. In my opinion the present appeal is governed by that decision and Court of Appeal were wrong in holding that it was not. I would accordingly allow the appeal.

Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Fraser, Lord Keith and Lord Scarman merely said that they agreed with Lord Diplock and that they too would give their reasons later.

Extract from P.A. Tape 1-2-80.

VICTORY FOR STEELMEN

LORD DENNING'S APPEAL COURT DECISION TO OUTLAW AN EXTENSION OF THE STEEL STRIKE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS OVERTURNED BY THE HOUSE OF LORDS TODAY.

FIVE LAW LORDS DECIDED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE MAIN STEEL UNION, THE IRON AND STEEL TRADES CONFEDERATION, AND CANCELLED INJUNCTIONS GRANTED LAST SATURDAY BANNING STRIKE ACTION AND SECONDARY PICKETING.

LORD DIPLOCK, PRESIDING, SAID FULL REASONS FOR TODAY'S DECISION WILL BE GIVEN IN WRITING LATER - POSSIBLY IN ABOUT A FORTNIGHT - BUT ADDED THAT THERE WAS NO RELEVANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS CASE AND THAT OF EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS V THE N.U.J. RECENTLY, WHICH THE JOURNALISTS' UNION WON.

"IN MY OPINION THE PRESENT APPEAL IS COVERED BY THAT DECISION AND THE COURT OF APPEAL WERE WRONG IN DECIDING IT WAS NOT," STATED LORD DIPLOCK.

THE PRIVATE STEEL COMPANIES WHO HAD OBTAINED THE INJUNCTIONS WERE ORDERED TO PAY THE UNION'S COSTS FOR ALL COURT HEARINGS IN THE CASE.

UNION LEADER BILL SIRTS SAID: "THE IMPACT OF THIS DECISION IS ENORMOUS. THE COMMON SENSE OF THE BRITISH STEEL CORPORATION AND THE GOVERNMENT MUST NOW PREVAIL SO THAT THEY MAKE US A REASONABLE OFFER."

MR SIRTS SAID HE DID NOT SEE ANY NEED TO ESCALATE PICKETING AS THIS WAS ALREADY EFFECTIVE. THE UNION EXECUTIVE IS MEETING LATER TODAY TO DECIDE WHETHER TO REINSTATE THE PRIVATE SECTOR STRIKE.

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