

Prime Minister

29.9.82

THE MINERS - PAY

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1. I had a talk to Nigel Lawson on 22nd September and with Malcolm Edwards, who is a member of the National Coal Board, on the following day.
2. As you know, the Coal Board has now made its final offer and the ballot among members of the N.U.M. as to whether to authorise the leadership to take industrial action takes place at the end of next month.
3. Both Nigel Lawson and Malcolm Edwards emphasised that Scargill will do his utmost during the coming weeks to secure a 55% majority authorising industrial action, including a number of miners' rallies in various parts of the country.
4. Both stressed that it was of the utmost importance that no member of the Government should give any hint that the Government itself would provide extra money, in order to improve the present final offer.
5. The best hope of Scargill losing the ballot is if the rank and file believe that the Coal Board's "No" to more money will not be overturned, even if there should be industrial action.
6. You may think it appropriate to remind your colleagues of this truth.

IAN GOW

