HAVING READ THE PROPOSALS FROM THE COMPANY, ARE YOU IN
FAVOUR OF ACCEPTING THEIR FINAL OFFER?

YES  NO

MAY 1986

"Stick your offer up your Arse".

Picketing printworkers are right now organising to defeat the current combined attempt
by the company/police/officials to stop the picketing. The job remains to clear the
scabs from Wapping, 100% entry to Wapping and to clear the police from the area. For
that, reinforcements are needed. Fellow workers - the road to Wapping is the road to
your freedom. Join us.

Central Hall, Westminster
For this eagerly-awaited meeting, on Friday, 30th May - the 127th day of the strike - the
London Machine Branch has officially hired the hall and invited all the sacked Sorat
members from the Murdoch quartet. Brenda Dean has a full diary and has given notice she
will be unable to attend. With a "no" vote on the ballot the individual Branches have
promised support and full backing. The union has been less forthcoming. The Fleet Street
levy will also continue, with word already from The Guardian and Mirror in particular that
they are solidly behind the strikers. Bouverie Street has been left out of the latest
talks. Murdoch plans to print extra News of the World there with scab labour. The unions
may well win the unfair dismissal cases - it would be a pity if these actions were to be
dropped. The London wholesalers, who are united behind the strike, are being left out in
the cold. To cease picketing in London, Glasgow and the distribution depots, to end the
boycott campaign and to end the fight for jobs at Wapping would be abject surrender.
Cray's Inn Road has nothing to offer. The fight is not for redundancy payments. The NGA
made this clear at Thursday's meeting with a massive rejection of the offer. We fight for
jobs at Wapping.
Saturday 24th May, Wapping
This was Wales night. The march from Tower Hill was sponsored by Scmat Wales and SW England Branch and there were at least five coachloads of supporters from South Wales. They sang and led the 4,000-strong march from Tower Hill at 9.05pm. There was a carnival atmosphere, both on the march and in Welleslow Square, and the shop selling badges and mugs was doing well. There was also a balloon race. The atmosphere changed as the march arrived. There were many hundreds of police in evidence - contingents at Thomas More and Dock Streets and ten on horseback in Virginia Street behind the police lines near the main gate. Riot squads were visible in Artichoke Hill. The Highway was blocked by over 100 police and access to the eastern exits - Wapping Lane and Glamis Road - was frustrated. Contingents of pickeets heading for these exits by way of the flats behind Welleslow were harassed in the side streets and turned back by police road blocks. There were even 20 police in the churchyard at St George's. Cable Street was blocked off at Esgny Street and Cannon Street Road with no one allowed through. The police tactics were successful in that many pickeets were prevented from getting to the Glamis Road exit and The Highway here was cleared from 10.30pm. The first artic had left the plant at 7.30pm and another convey headed out soon after 11pm. The police at the top of Wapping Lane kept the pickeets moving away from the area, and even those shouting "scab" as coaches left were intimidated. At Cannon Street Road the group assembled there refused to budge and although isolated from much of the action held firm. At Thomas More and Virginia Streets the pickeets also remained solid. The pickeets opposite the plant were loud and vocal, and whenever anything moved inside the plant the noise was deafening. The numbers this night were up, and this was heartening especially as many pickeets had been drawn away elsewhere for a flying pickeet.

Saturday 24th May, Worthing and Brighton
At 9.45pm a flying pickeet left London for the Portobello Press in Worthing. There were 300-500 pickeets, all in cars. On arrival at midnight the pickeets were told that the plant had been shut down. The pickeets had been expected and the police could not guarantee the safety of the lorries. There were twelve police on the estate guarding an empty plant. At 1.30am a meeting was held to decide on the next move - to head for Surridge Dawson's or Have distributors. S & D won, and at 2.30 pickeets arrived in central Brighton to find 20 police at the entrance. The surrounding roads were sealed off. The pickeets were told that nothing would be entering or leaving that night. The place seemed to be in darkness. Police allowed four pickeets into the building and they were delighted to see piles of return copies of The Sun. A group stayed on just in case this was a ruse. One car left for Hove to investigate the situation there. At 4am another meeting was held and again the police promised that the place would remain closed. The pickeets threatened to double their numbers if the distribution went ahead. Roads were sealed, with transit vans blocking access even for residents, but the police were less hostile than at Wapping. The pickeets gradually dispersed after the meeting - and reckoned the night was a complete victory. Pickeets were pleased with their effectiveness. There were no arrests and no hassle.

Letter from Occupied Wapping
They are out to snuff us
They are out to fail
From Peterloo to Wapping
The struggle is the same

When I see the police attack
I sometimes get an awful dread
That one day a pickeet
Is going to end up dead

The police can arrest the innocent
They're free to commit assault
The pike who murdered Blair Peach
Did not even go to court

It's what's called British justice
The boss wins every time
To take someone's job is legal
To defend jobs is a crime

They want to crush the unions
The working class to tame
It's the rich that get the profits
And the workers get the blame

Now the bosses' cops are deadly
It's not a game of cricket
But every union member
Should join the Wapping pickeet
Sunday 25th May, Wapping
It was quiet during the afternoon. There were about 50 pickets on duty. And every scab was greeted with shouts like "you live... filth". Morale was good. The advertisement for The Mirror was still on the railings. As the leaflet "Murdoch is scum (part two)" said: "A capitalist is a capitalist is a capitalist". One local resident/picket was complaining how the local Labour Party in Tower Hamlets has had their fingertips in Murdoch's till the whole time. A Coliseum Co coach from Southampton, full of scabs, went in at 5.30pm. It is sobering to see that it has no armour.

Bank Holiday Monday, 26th May, Wapping
Seventy pickets were in front of the plant all afternoon. Many cars passing by tooted their horns in support. Very few scabs-in-uniform were visible but every so often a van would cruise by. More of these thugs are being recruited to suppress the unemployed. These soft cops are working overtime this Bank Holiday, not to support the strike, but to contain, isolate, strait-jacket and smash the pickets. At 6pm the magnificent vanworkers on duty heard on the radio of Brenda Dean's plotting in secret behind the backs of the strikers with Murdoch and the TUC's. The members sacrifice and risk their lives: the leaders collude.

Pre-march picket
Wednesday 4th June, 7pm
Aldgate East Underground
Picket a scab picking-up point
Organised by Sogat strikers.

Wednesday 28th May, Wapping - early morning picket
Eighty pickets gathered behind the barriers at the top of Virginia Street from 7.30am. An almost continuous stream of traffic in and out of the plant was loudly heckled and abused. One enterprising picket managed to "stall" his car on Virginia Street and block the entrance for a good five minutes.

Wednesday 29th May, Fleet Street - afternoon lobby
Over a hundred printworkers took part in a lobby of the Press Association in an attempt to stop scab copy being sent to Wapping. Pickets feel disgust for the NCA / Sogat members here who are strikebreaking (even though officials at the beginning of the strike did not issue a blocking order). Pickets standing on both sides of the entrance were in inspiration to Fleet Street day workers many of whom formed part of the lobby. After two hours outside the main entrance a short march was held around the corner and past the pickets at the old Sun building in Douverie Street. Police blocked the march in Tudor Street. More pickets less meetings.

Wednesday 28th May, Wapping - march and rally
At 9.15pm 1,500 pickets left Tower Hill for the march to Wapping. At the Thomas More Street exit the march halted briefly and sang "Overtime" in front of the police lines. The Highway was blocked by lines of police at Virginia Street with ten horses behind. The rally sang "Rupert Murdoch stick your money up your ass". A Sun clerical striker was arrested at 10.05 for sitting on a barrier. Pickets piled in but were unable to rescue him. This stirred up the crowd. Police and vehicles leaving the plant were loudly abused. At 10.30 a small section gathered in nearby Swedenborg Gardens and 100 pickets marched behind the Sogat Machine Casual Banner round to the Highway from the east. This threw the police and helped to maintain the momentum of the picket. The police lines were stretched and it was 20 minutes before the pickets were corralled. Police brought one van and a car through the crowd at 10.50. A second march of 20 pickets began at 11.05 in the Gardens and wound its way along Cable Street to King David Lane ending up at the Highway east of the Wapping Lane exit. Here a scab actie and coach appeared driving east at speed. They were surprised and jeered by the march. During the march transit vans full of police were taken by surprise in the side streets - it was a good junt. The Highway was opened to traffic at 11.30 and the march returned to Wellclose Square. Strikers from the mass NCA meeting swelled the picket. Morale was solid. This was the fortieth march from Tower Hill.
Notes:
- Friday 30th May, 7-11pm, unemployed/uvaged night at Wapping, organised by the Federation of Claimants Unions.
- Pickets assemble every night at West Horndon TNT depot. Last week, when a flying picket bolstered the usual numbers (about 30), one acab suddenly saw the clarity of class issues in all their theoretical, ideological and historical perspectives and drove into a cop car.
- Pickets in Liverpool are having uneven success. A small number is being stopped from going into the large Bremco plant which does colour supplement work for Murdoch.
- Pickets were pleased to learn of support from a morder in the General Trade who refused to print an insert for The Sunday Times and was sacked.

Two Photocets scabs at Wapping:
Nick Coll, 10 Robbins Avenue, Lenham, Maidstone, Kent (0622 858282) has applied for a union card from the NUJ. Happily they have seen through his lies and put the black on.
Brian Carnichael, 49 Bromerton Road, Beckenham, Kent (ex-directory), an ex-FoC is now a manager at Wapping.

Income: £1, £1, 40p, 20p London Machine Branch: £1 5 Times "Netscape"; £2 Sogat members; £1.45icket; £2 Sun Machine chapel; £5, £5 Guardian Multi-trades chapel: 50p, 35p Times Graphical chapel; £1 Sun Publishing; £4 Sogat striker; £1.20 W H Smith Peckham; £3, £2, £1 misc; £10 NCA machine minder; £5 Times RIRMA; £1 SWP printworker; £1 working Sogat machine member.

Donations are most welcome and necessary.

Pickets published by NCA/Sogat pickets.