Saturday 27th September Additional. Later at night, scab white vans bricked in several places. News received (though scarce) of picketing successes in Brixton.

Monday 29th September. The Southampton (EETPU) Scab Coach arrived along the Embankment spat on time. By the Temple Inn, one or two heavy stones were thrown. The driver stopped just past the red traffic light. The doors opened and the scabs rushed to get off, to waylay the so-called villains, when from Temple Avenue and John Carpenter Street more pickets (for so-called villains) emerged with even more, heavier stones to lash at the scabs. Immediately the doors slammed and the infamous scab driver sped off. What the driver did not know was that there were more pickets along the Embankment, and once through the Blackfriars Underpass, more pickets were smashing the front windscreen, and his radio would not work through the Underpass. Every picket escaped un-nicked, and the windowless scab coach arrived (on time) at Wapping.

The Lofty Heights. A short while ago, “Lofty” attends a Print Workers’ strike fund-raising benefit. Next thing, he’s jilted. This week on morning TV, he was interviewed, and as soon as he said he supported the printers, the interviewer cut off.

Blackpool Trip: Wednesday 1st October. In the early hours of last Wednesday, a small but determined crowd eagerly awaited the arrival of their anticipated executive coach to Blackpool from Britannia Street. On boarding, all hopes of a luxury trip were soon dispelled. The video was not working, as was the toilet, and coffee and tea-making facilities.

Stops along the motorway soon got the message across to our object. Stickers and leaflets appeared in all the usual places. Arriving at Blackpool about 11.45am, we quickly made our presence felt, dispersing with newspaper placards advertising the merits of reading the Sun.

Outside the conference we set up shop and distributed leaflets, bags and hats, and put our message to the locals. Sun readers in Blackpool were not hard to find. They seemed around everywhere one looked. On visiting a club, a member counted 25 reading Murdoch’s Wapping rubbish.

Cross talk to a group of electricians ended with a victory for SOGAT, when gave them some home truths. The Blackpool police, although still our enemy, were much more bearable than the Met filth.

A special mention should be given to two young sons of a member who travelled with us. They quickly earnt the whipround we had for them, spreading the word among the Blackpool crowds. It was suggested we borrow the 12 donkeys on the beach, take them back to Wapping, put on our visors and storm the gates. A contents and tided bunch arrived back at Kings Cross about 11.15pm, with another job well done.
Wednesday Evening. 400 mainly warehouse workers marched to Wapping in a clear demonstration of their will to win. From Wellelose Square could be seen strikebreakers leaving in convoy, drivers gunning their engines in a futile attempt not to hear simple truth as they pass the pickets.

Thursday Morning 2nd October. Demonstrate at Law Courts. NGA compositors at the Daily Mirror have been hauled into court following a work stoppage and meeting (2 or 3 hours?) Friday 19th September, due to management attempts to get rid of the 4,300 workers at the Holborn Circus plant. Thirty or so printers and supporters demonstrated outside on the Strand. The case was quickly adjourned to the next day, and then Friday to twenty-eight days hence.

Thursday Evening 2nd October. A memorial service was held for Jim Stanton, a print machine picket who died recently of a heart attack. It was attended by strikers and supporters from all branches of print. In attendance were warehouse strikers fresh from a large meeting of picketing strikers resolve on 100%, union entry to Wapping, all scabs out.

Friday 3rd October. Another picket (Stephen Savage) has been sent to prison (for 3 months), for picketing.

Friday Afternoon 3rd October. New and old friendships renewed. The march was buoyed up by news of spreading Seamen's strikes in the ports, though news was scarce. March progressed through Fleet Street to cheers, near the F.T. 600-1000 or more workers, strikers, unemployed and casuals marched from Thames Inn in Central London just after 3.00pm. Road and foot traffic for miles around was prevented from entering the area near the march. Everywhere along the march, workers came out to see the marchers. Along the route, our band played powerful music. There were banners from different printing crafts marching in a solid unified manner. This was the 93rd or 94th march of the strike to Wapping. Hundreds of police strikebreakers accompanied the march, plus many more visible in coaches and vans in practically every sidestreet along the route. When the march arrived at Wellelose Square, Wapping, the police left in a group, heads down, as strikers and supporters yelled chorus after chorus of "Scabs" "Rats" "Crabs". The march was sponsored by SOGAT unattached machine chapel and their smart T-shirts "No Sellout" could be seen right through the crowd.

Income: (Not all listed, rest next issue.) £10 S. Mirror warehouse; £45 NoW Publishing Collection; £2 machine casual; £66 Class War (good pickets) Bristol benefit; £5 NGA compositor.

Pickets e/o Housmans Books, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX.
Published by picketing print union members.