

First hand reports and information by printworker pickets -- contributions welcome

WHEN THE LEADERSHIP STARTS SAYING THINGS LIKE "WE WILL NEVER SELL OUR MEMBERS OUT",
WATCH YOUR BACKS

41st Day of the Picket

Up to 2000 demonstrators set out from Gough Street (behind the Times building) on the evening of Wednesday 6th March. The march to Wapping via Fleet Street was organised by SOGAT. Machine and warehouse were the large majority.

The march was strung-out and slow-moving. There was some diversion in Fleet Street, --- toffs on a night out were flapping and jeering their hatred of the workers from the safety of a top-floor window of the Wig & Pen Club. Some pickets began to join the party but they were quickly put back on course by the strikebreakers in blue.

Tonight the procession was allowed to go through the city instead of round it. The police got slightly excited when a scab coach drove across the road in front of us.

Three hours after starting out, around 1500 people arrived at Wapping to join pickets opposite the main gate. This was shortly before midnight, and the mood was subdued. A few hundred followed the Sun machine banner up the Highway, and right back down again. Nobody was that keen to take up an invitation to "turn right !" into four rows of Feds and a line of mounties, instead many pickets stood in the road discussing and drinking coffee.

Most of the chanting on the march was letting residents of WC1 and the City not to buy the Sun, but the best turn of the evening was the Sun machine chapel's brilliant version of 'The Laughing Policeman'.

42nd Day of the Picket

Thursday evening's picket at Wapping was given extra cheer by the separate arrivals of two ambulances. Each one crossed the line at the gate to evacuate scab(s). For the capitalists human lives are just so much expendable energy to be consumed and discarded.

A scab car which broke down just after leaving provided the police with an excuse to rack up two arrests. As a scattering of pickets moved to make known its contempt of the stranded strikebreakers, two pickets were picked off by the police.

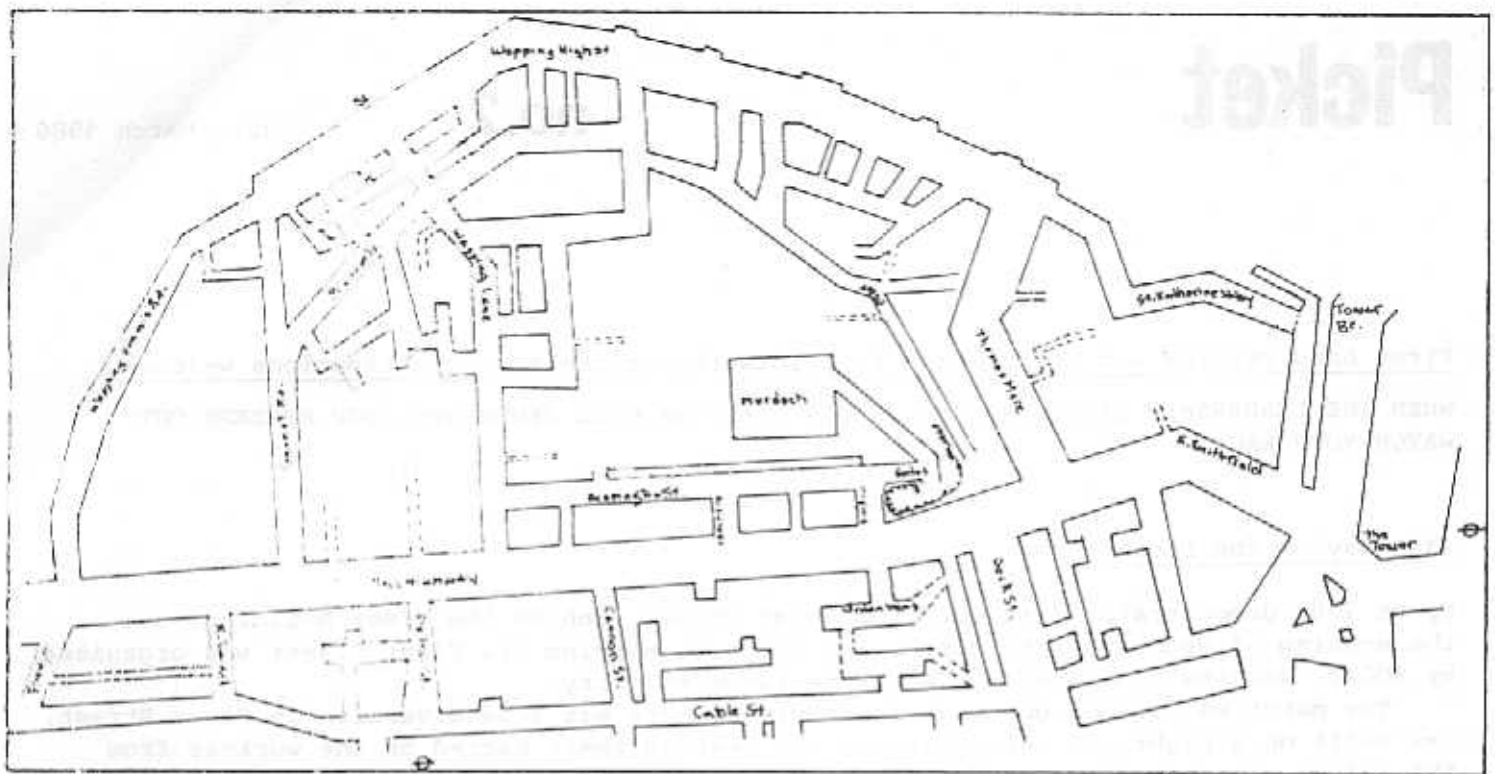
44th Day of the Picket

Saturday evening, 8th March saw a march by thousands of women to meet up with over a thousand men plus many more arriving throughout the night.

The demo took up the Highway in front of the scab plant. At one point there was a spirited but unsuccessful push against the barricades in Virginia Street.

When five lorries made their run through Thomas More Street, over 100 pickets started to converge on them. At first the police were caught by surprise, but then made arrests. One of the arrests was a young woman who apparently stood in front of a lorry. In all twenty-five arrests were reported.

Later in the evening the strikebreakers in uniform edged a line in between the pickets and the barricades. Then the horses were brought in to force the pickets off the road. The capitalists want a monopoly on the use of force. What we want is the vast wage slave majority to suppress the profiteering majority.



- Wednesday 12th March, 7.00pm. March from Tower Hill organised by SOGAT
- Saturday March: 15th, 8.30pm. March from Tower Hill.
- Thursday the TWC will hold a rally for Murdoch as far away from Wapping as possible.
- 24-hour pickets give the scabs a crawl to work at Wapping, Grays Inn Rd. and Bouverie Street.
- Vanworkers continue to provide loyal service.

Local TNT Depots

LUTON 176 Camford Way, Sundon Park, Luton, Beds.
 BORNSEY Units 1 & 2, Cranford Way Industrial Estate, Tottenham Lane, London N8
 HOUNSLOW Unit 13, Heathrow International Trading Estate, Green Lane, Hounslow, Middx.
 HESTON Phoenix Way, Cranford Lane, Heston, Hounslow, Middx.

The New, All-elastic Printer

£6.85 (general trade agreement) to work on in spite of the strike. Further strings attached :

- * "new...efficiency and productivity"
- * "new...flexibility of labour"
- * "rearrangement of working hours"

Reading between the lines, this agreement means we all get to work harder and faster and longer as the bosses continue to bring in the new regime : less jobs.

The truth is, the 'masters' in small and medium sized shops have already been increasing dismissals and speed-up. Unless rejected this becomes official on 24th April in BPIF shops.

You have to be "sensible", "responsible" and "realistic" we are told these days. But to a lot of peoples ears, "realistic" sounds like "the sack". It all means put up and shut up while the bosses try to grind us into the dust.

We are told that the issues of new technology on the one hand, and wages, conditions and shop-floor power on the other, are totally separate. But this strike is all about new technology. Technology isn't just machines -- it's how they're used and what they're used for.

Written, printed and paid for by voluntary machine workers.
 Address : Picket, c/o 62B Tottenham High Road, London N17