

STOPPIN' WAPPIN'

MURDOCH

At the end of January 1986, Rupert Murdoch publisher of the Sun, The Times, The News of The World, and The Sunday Times, moved his papers to his new £100 million print works in Wapping. The 5000 printers etc. who struck in protest were sacked, while the new works was run with secretly recruited scabs, mainly members of the electricians union the EEPTU.

The dispute has been in the offing for quite a while. In the USA, all newspapers are hi-tec, while in British printing, only Fleet St. has resisted management imposed new technology. On The Kent Messenger and The Nottingham Evening Post management have won battles in the last couple of years over new technology, sacking printers and replacing them with NUJ scabs. Most importantly in 1983 Eddie Shah destroyed the power of the local NGA, following a sacking dispute at his free rag the Stockport Messenger. After riotous mass pickets and massive fines for secondary picketing, the NGA leadership bottled out and accepted defeat. On Fleet St. itself Maxwell got rid of 2000 printers a couple of months ago. But it is Shah's new daily (to appear by the summer) that has really led to the current crisis. Shah is threatening to sell his colour daily for as little as 10p., which he will be able to afford because of the amount of cost cutting technology and new work practices he has used. In the 'soon to come' price /costs war on Fleet St. Murdoch has moved first.



BIG MONEY NOW SCABS, BUT WHAT ABOUT IN 2 YEARS TIME?

- mass picketing, violent or not
- through pickets of all TNT distribution points
- through sabotage of the plants and distribution network.
- calling out of the rest of Fleet St.

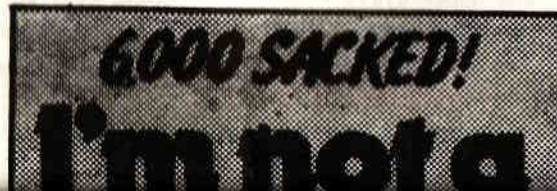
SHAH, MURDOCH, MAXELL.

Shah is vulnerable, he has invested all he has in his new print works. Maxwell is vulnerable, his papers are doing badly and Murdoch is vulnerable-60% of his

Sun's printers --they're just bastards printing such sexist and racist rubbish. Unfortunately most people aren't totally 'right-on' and need to eat like you and me. Print workers do a job like anyone, boring and with no control over what they do. During the NHS and the miners strikes the printers were in the forefront of giving both financial and industrial support. It's only through struggle that anything will ever change.

PART TWO

Some people have said..(part2)..why support the printers, they all earn about £40000 a year. Bullshit! Maybe 50 out of 5000 earned £40000 -after 25 years of skill learning. Why criticise those who forced a good wage out of their boss. Good luck to them!



THE UNIONS

WAPPING, 8th FEB.

Second mass picket of the strike, called by SOGAT 82. A march of 2000, sacked women printers and the wives/families of sacked printers joins a 1000 strong picket outside Murdochs Wapping plant. After the road was totally blocked for a while, Brenda 'Drippy' Dean tries to lead away people to a nearby rallysite to a chorus of boos and jeers. (The Beaucrats always try that trick don't they!) Later the picket reforms outside the gate where the lorries come in and out. 300 involved in a push and shove, a few punches etc. but the police have the road clear within half an hour. Over 5 lorries have their windscreens shattered, as does a police coach carrying scabs and best of all Murdochs Merc gets the same treatment. Basically though there was never enough people to stop the paper this time. True mass pickets need to be organised as soon as possible and regularly. People in and outside London should get ready to turn out on mass. February 8th showed what's possible with a few hundred pickets at the lorry gate, but next time we need 1000s!

WHERE TO GO

PICKET LINE is on EAST SMITHFIELD/ THE HIGHWAY in WAPPING, East London. Nearest TUBE : TOWER HILL.

SUPPORT THE STRIKING PRINTWORKERS!



income is from the SUN. This struggle is crucial to all of us. An employer has sacked 5000 workers and totally replaced them with scabs -- unheard of on this scale for dozens of years. This is the most important strike since the miners and could be even more important. Murdoch must be smashed!!

SOME PEOPLE HAVE SAID... PART ONE

Some people have said...why support the

However the almost total failure of the NGA and SOGAT leadership to resist the bosses attacks over the last 2 years is responsible for his ease in getting away ..(so far!) with the 5000 sackings. In fact 'Drippy' Dean and Dubbins wanted a deal with Murdoch...a deal which would have meant ..no unofficial strikes acceptance of 'single -key copy', a major change in work practice and an acceptance of major job loses.

The print union leaders strategy for victory centers on an appeal to public opinion to stop Murdochs papers and to the TUC to stop EEPTU work at Wapping, and to stop distribution of the papers. After 3 weeks of strike fuck-all has been achieved--distribution is nearly back to normal. But with such a pathetic strategy thats not suprising. When you fight the bosses you don't hit them with a feather you go for the kill!

The only way Murdoch will be defeated is by all-out industrial warfare



THE ONLY LANGUAGE THAT SCABS UNDERSTAND!