

Swindon: Wednesday 10th December: 20 pickets from London joined the Picket line at Lithorex Ltd in Swindon to bolster the forces of SOGAT strikers, who are being scabbed on by Management and NGA Machine Minders. The pickets from Swindon have been very active in the Wapping dispute, with both money and delegations to Wapping. Their support banner has become one of the fixtures of Saturday Night Demonstrations. We stayed for the shift change. Some of the scabs delayed their departure, some left at high speed intending to knock down pickets. One of the NGA Minders refused to work his machine without Trade Union Labour and was promptly sacked. We will be noting the progress of this dispute and the wishes of the pickets in Swindon.

Saturday 13th December: Wapping: A women's march (the 124th strike march to Wapping) of around 600 took place from Butcher Row, then along the Highway to Sutton Street. Here it met up with a print support group organised march of about 600 (the 125th) which had started at Aldgate East tube. Then both south to the Highway and rallying in front of the scab plant. Meanwhile a march (the 126th) of about 2,500 took place from Tower Hill to the scab plant. Later, pickets moved about the area. At Butcher Row, cops were seen moving three arrested pickets from one van to another. On one side of the prisoner was a uniformed strikebreaker, on the other plainclothes. Meanwhile, when the uniformed strikebreakers cleared striking workers and supporters from the Highway in front of the plant, some arrests were made. As things cooled down, a mass of pickets did the "Laughing Policeman" for a group of them at the rear of Wellclose.

More writers welcomed.

Additional on 14th December, one of the gates was pushed open but second wouldn't budge.

Sunday 14th December: Wapping: Pickets kept up the pressure on the Fortress by once again taking the gate at 3.00 in the morning. It was hard to see how many pickets were involved, but the number canvassed was 300 and there were still some onlookers in Wellclose Square. Pickets seemed to be from all Unions involved and showed a maturity of organisation that comes from struggle. The gate was held for about an hour, at the busiest time for a Newspaper. By the time the uniformed strikebreakers had got their act together, it was 4.00am. Being then in the majority, they pushed the pickets up Virginia Street. Six pickets were arrested, even though it had been a totally peaceful demonstration. After the frame-up of Shirfield, Hicks and Savage it appears that pushing a Policeman who is doing his best to push you into the gutter now ranks as attempted murder. Steven Savage has now been released.

Bemrose: Pickets will have noted that the majority of Bemrose workers will have something in common with us in the not too distant future. They will be living like us, in Jolly Giro Land. This will come as no surprise to Machine Branch Casual Pickets, who constantly told Bemrose workers that by doing the bidding of their employers, ie printing the supplements for the News International Titles, they were showing their own weakness and moving forward the day when they would be on the sharp end of the stick. Again we make the point: there is only one reward from crawling to the Boss – a swift and sharp kick from them, because they know you are weak.

Chapels in Fleet Street still using Bemrose reels, printing adverts for TNT and the like, please note.

Letter: Those involved in the dispute may not know that the majority of workers involved in this dispute are Casual Workers. There are 3,000 Casual Workers in the Central Branch, 340 Casual Workers in the London Machine Branch and many more in other SOGAT and NGA branches. We have lost work, and the jobs we could have reasonably expected in the future. In many ways, we are in exactly the same position as the London Wholesale, we have stood with the strikers and can only rely on the strikers to protect our interests.

Those interests would include the retention of the Casual System of working, that is to say that members do not cover sickness and holidays, but call in Casuals to do this work. Anything less than this will mean that we have spent 10 months on the picket lines, many of our members have been arrested, some have been jailed, more have had their blood spilt on the streets of Wapping – all to no avail.

If there is a settlement without these conditions, I suppose we will have to continue the picket and then we'll have gone through one more experience. We'll know how the Kent Miners felt at the end of their strike.

Another letter: Pickets will be amused to note that our efforts are being read from as far away as the European Parliament, an institution whose principal purpose seems to be paying large salaries to those involved in its workings. As follows:

"I was very pleased to be able to take part in the printworkers' march to Fortress Wapping on Wednesday 26th November. It is essential that those privileged to represent working people clearly identify themselves with the struggles of working people. As always in such circumstances, the Miners' dispute, the 'Silentnight' dispute in my own constituency, and in your fight, I was struck by the comradeship, integrity and cheerfulness in the face of adversity shown by ordinary working

K-P NEWS

MAKE OUR CITY A

Picket Sat 13 Dec.

PORTMAN ST.
KINNING PARK

SCAB
FREE
ZONE

No. 1 Dec '86

WAPPING STRIKER'S APPEAL - NOW IT'S GLASGOW'S TURN!

*Pickets marched from Glasgow to London - now
we've got to bring the fight back home.*

Photo: Wapping Post

It is now 10 months since News International workers were locked out by their employer and were replaced by scabs recruited by the EEPTU.

During this time the strikers have been battered by the Police, pilloried by the Press and have constantly been offered shady deals negotiated in secret by Union Officials.

They have resisted all these attempts to dissuade them from fighting for the basic issues of Trade Union recognition and jobs in Wapping. After 10 months we are more determined than ever that we will not back down to this sort of blackmail; we are fighting and we intend to go on.

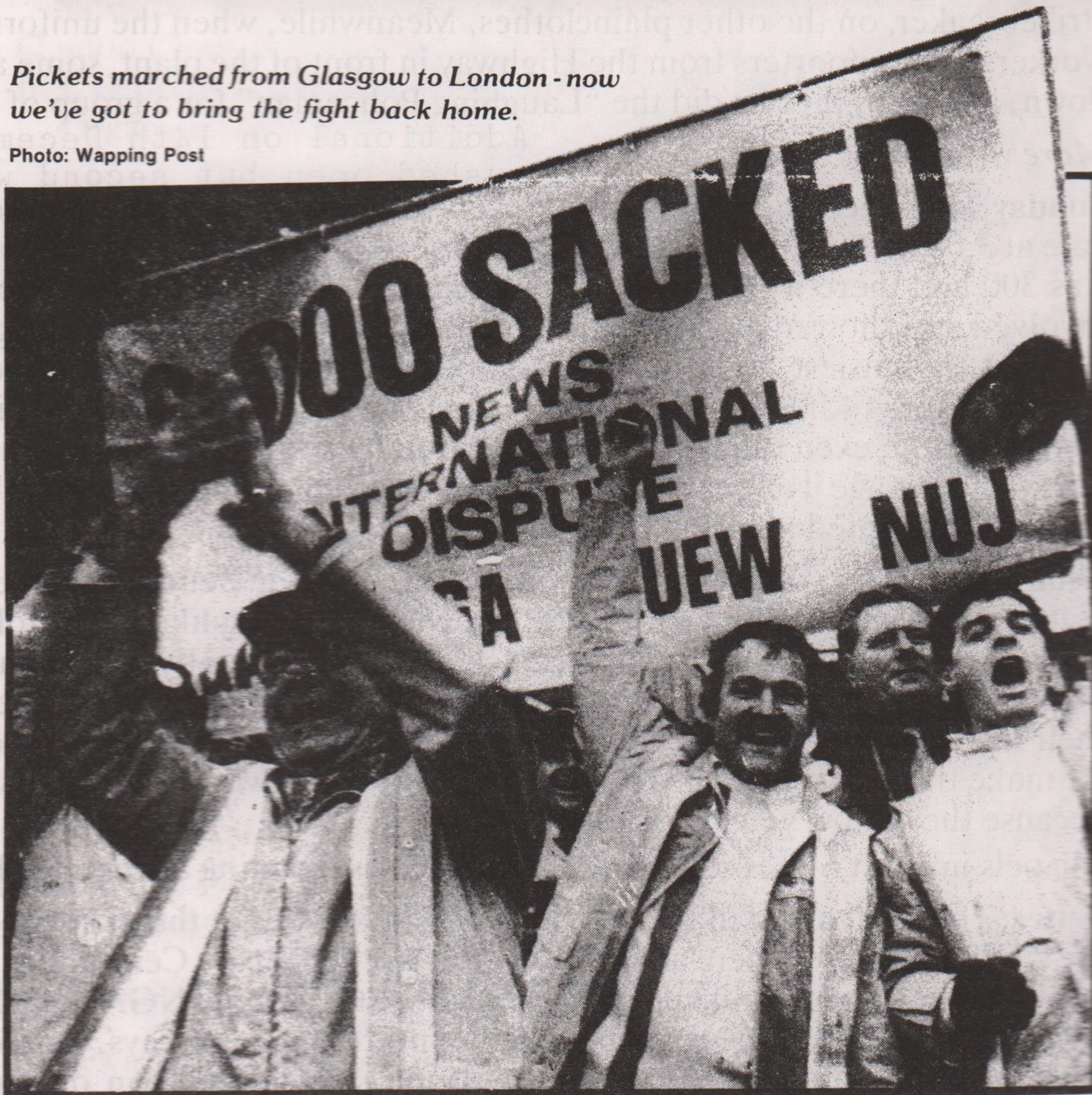
THE ENEMY WITHIN

Since the start of the dispute the Scab Titles of News International have been printed in Glasgow at Kinning Park. The jobs that are there are the jobs of Scottish Printworkers who are on the dole.

These jobs have been stolen by the Scabs. They are stealing out of your mouths. Further, in a city like Glasgow which has a Trade Union history stretching back over 100 years, it is inconceivable that the Scab Stalag could go unchallenged in the city.

It is the shame of this city that it could happen. John MacLean and the Red Clydesiders must be turning in their graves. This blot on the history of Glasgow can only be erased when the Scab Stalag is manned by traditional Printing Union Members with traditional recognition.

At Wapping we like to think that we are part of the fight against this evil Government, we urge you to join us and wipe out the blot on the history of your city.



PEOPLE OFTEN ASK 'Why do you support printers who are involved in a dispute 400 miles away?'. And the answer's quite simple.

Firstly, of course, the dispute is as much at Kinning Park as it is in Wapping, although no one has actually been sacked from Kinning Park, the scabs inside are doing jobs which are printworkers' jobs and, like their puppet master Murdoch, are pissing on what little union rights workers have.

Not only that, but they're parading about Kinning Park quite openly and sneering at

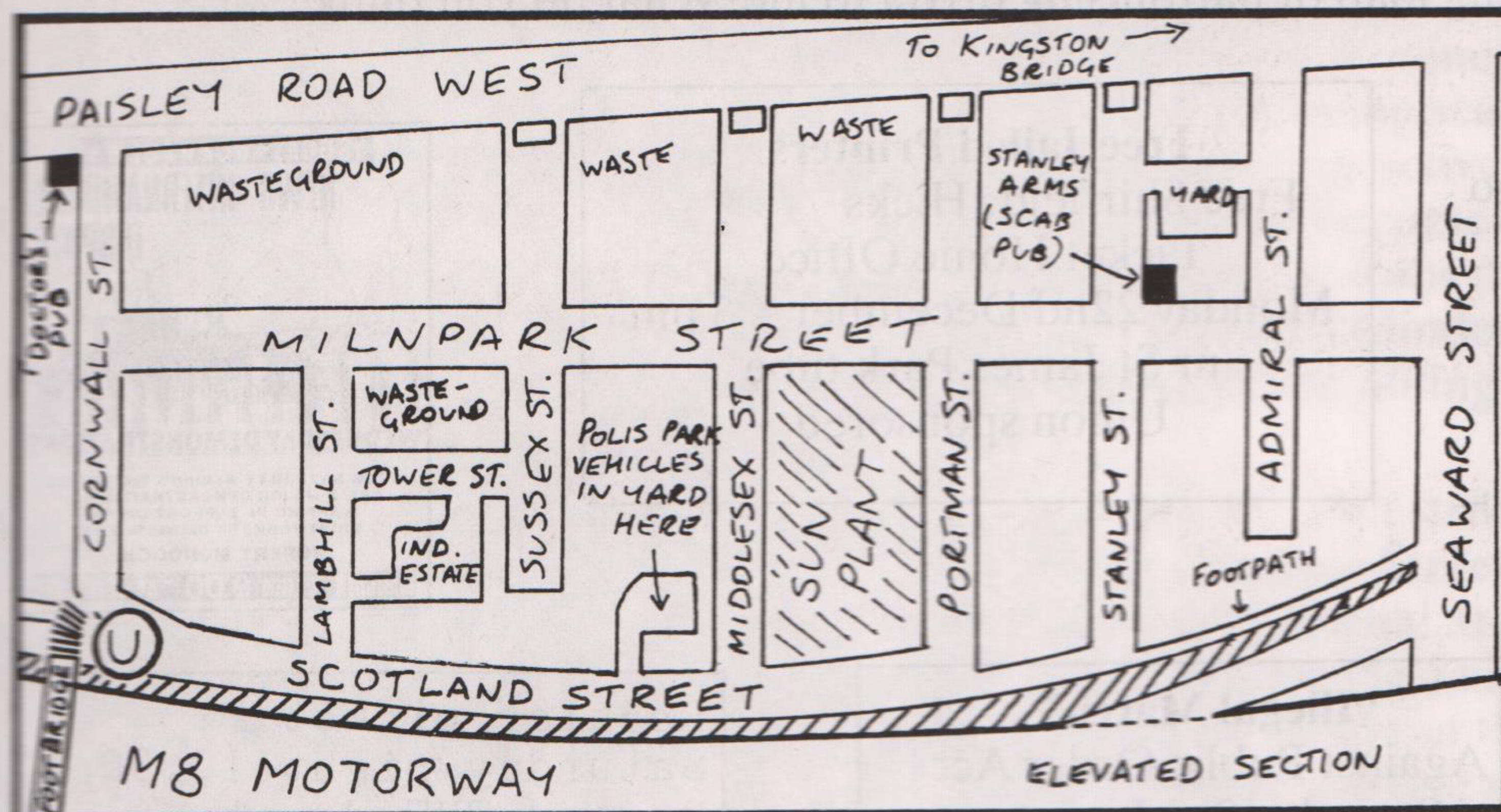
every one of us. Well, they have been until recently; now they're beginning to see that we're not going to put up with scabs in Glasgow, and we're not going to accept bastards like Murdoch throwing 6,000 people on the scrapheap.

So that's the reason we support printworkers, and all workers involved in dispute with the bosses. We all know what it's like to be bullied and bashed by the bosses -

Now it's time to tell the bullies to fuck off.

KINNING PARK'S UNOFFICIAL NEWS SHEET

A Visitor's Guide to Kinning Park



PICKET REPORT

We asked around for stories on what happened on Friday 28th November at Kinning Park, and this is what some people came up with:

Me and a few mates went along to the picket at Kinning Park the other Friday after word had got round that some strikers from Wapping were coming up. It sounded like it could be lively night instead of the usual boring speeches from Union officials and with the odd 'Scab' getting shouted at the end just to kid on we're all being 'militant'.

When we arrived, though, it looked pretty grim. Apart from a freezing wind, there were swarms of paper-sellers like flies, a lot of police hanging around and loud-mouthed, jumped-up stewards herding everyone down to the south end of Portman Street so we could catch whatever pearls of wisdom were going to come out of the Union bosses and

Labour Party hacks who'd showed up.

The first two speakers were Gillespie and a Labour MP from Edinburgh (all the Labour MPs in Scotland had been invited and only *one* bothered to show - just as well since this character just mumbled his way through a load of drivel - then we had a balding little guy called Lamont, a full-time official from Edinburgh telling us to 'clear the road', 'obey the police', 'obey the stewards' whilst the police themselves shoved us off the street onto the pavements on either side. He topped this lot off by telling us to 'point the finger at troublemakers' - in other words to grass up anyone with guts enough to have a go at the scabs. A bit of heckling and bit of half-hearted applause and that was it.

However, things cheered up when one of the strikers from Wapping got hold of a megaphone and treated us to a good, rowdy speech and suggested that we go on a 'walk about' round the area, a tactic which he told us the pickets used all the time in Wapping. After a few minutes we all headed off in a noisy procession, went round the Sun plant once, came back, then set off to roam the streets a couple more times. This seemed a good deal better than hanging around and it certainly paid off later.

As a big group of us were walking up Milnpark Street we heard a lot of shouting by the pickets at

the gates in Middlesex Street and saw about four scab vans come out of the plant and head west along Scotland Street. We guessed that the vans would have to turn north into Paisley Road West so we legged it down Milnpark Street with the aim of getting them. We just managed to reach the vans as they came up Lambhill Street. With plenty of rubble lying around some quick-thinking characters had the right idea and various bits of masonry were chucked at the vans. The sight of dents appearing in the scab vans' panels, a broken side window and the satisfying thump of stone against metal was enough to bring grins at the faces of all those present - except the scabs of course, who made off as fast as they could. We headed back quickly to the plant before the Law could show up and I went home shortly after, around about ten o'clock.

* * * * *

Between 4-500 people turned out to let the scabs know that they're not welcome in Kinning Park.

The screws, although there in large numbers, were further assisted by Sogat official Bob 'Dizzy' Gillespie, who asked for the crowd to point out 'missile throwers' to the police. Despite these pleas a scab van had an extra bit of air conditioning installed.

Later that night a delivery of paint was sent to the plant. On finding the gates were closed, the 'delivery men' decided the best way to deliver the paint to the scabs was to put the paint in little bags and throw them to the scum. Not surprisingly they never caught any; not with their hands anyway.

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Union leader Lamont entered the bureaucrats Hall of Fame with his immortal utterance: "Obey the Police at all times!"

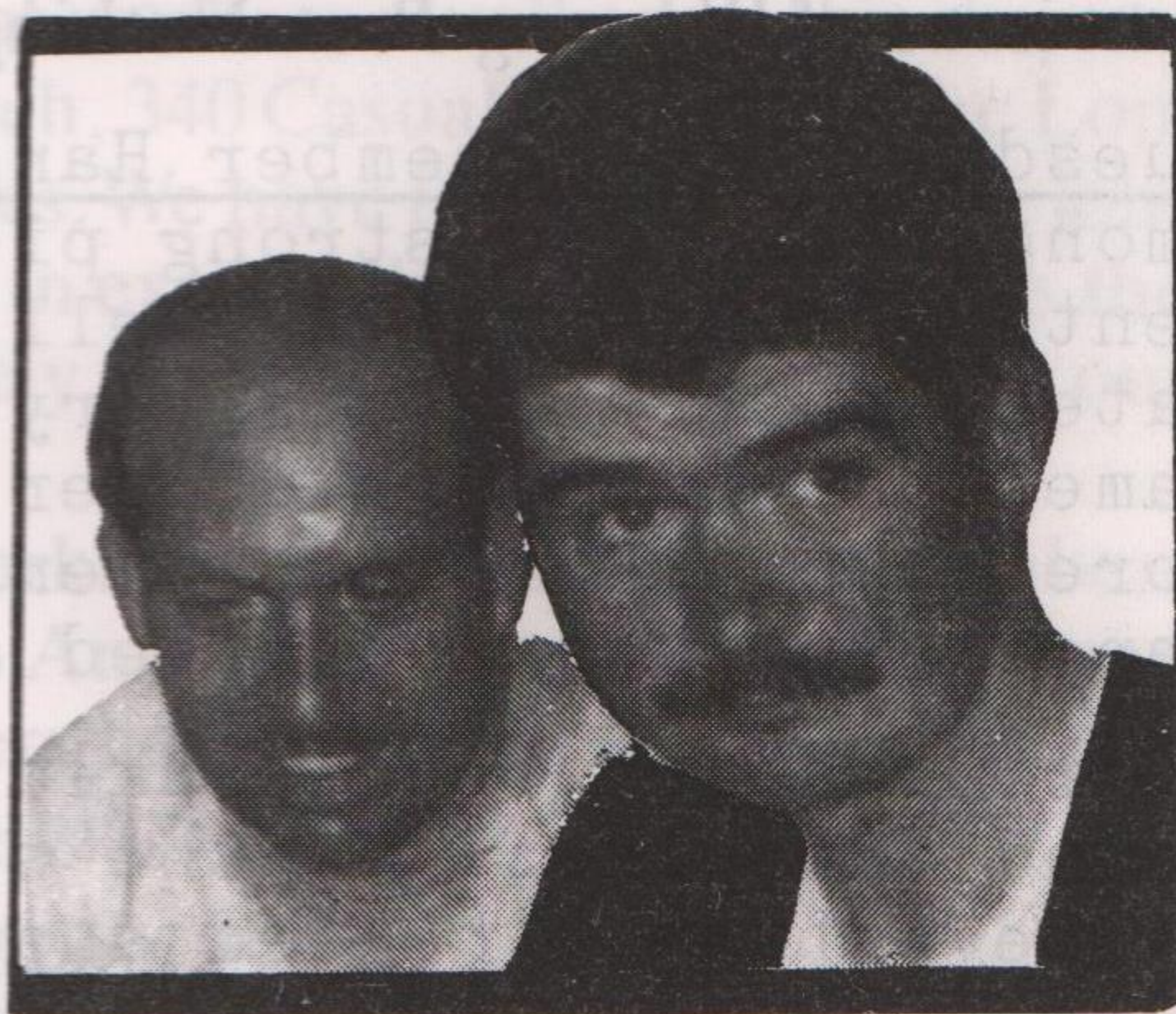
These were the same Govan polis responsible for the mass arrests of miners at Hunterston.

As one picket sighed: "It's prevaricators, not provocateurs, that are the bloody problem!"

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• Car enthusiasts might like to know what sort of cars Kinning Park scabs can afford to drive. This handy list of number plates should help identify them that much easier. Most scabs now park their cars immediately north of Paisley Road West.

MSC 661X KSF 118X A590 H85 GGG 561X
BDM 378W D902 OGD HSW 690L B863 XYS
DWH 894Z C762 LGD A846 TGG C162 X5T



• MEET two of Govan's finest - Police Constables Raymond and Bobby, based at Orkney Street.

They're often to be seen around Govan and on the picket line - in plain clothes and wearing 'Support the Strikers' badges - ready, willing and able when a Union Boss points the finger at 'troublemakers'.

Next time you see these delegates from the Police Federation, give them a Big Hello!

The Spirit of Christmas Past

"I Accuse!"

I accuse at least half the trade unions of Britain, that is to say, executives, secretaries, officers etc., of these unions, of failing in their duty to their members.

The seamen's strike, as an instance, has surely shown that the men of this union have made it abundantly clear that they want no part of these corrupt stooges, who are only faced with work when they have a national strike on their hands. Can it be that they have been living in luxury for so long that they have become afraid of work?

This is the case, I am sad to say; in many unions too often the worker is given the short end of the stick by both employers and union officials. Rarely does it come to the public eye, for it seldom reaches national level.

The officials form into cliques and hand-pick their lieutenants - in other words, jobs for the boys. Some of you may think that I am harsh by describing the stooges of our unions as corrupt. I do not think so, for the simple reason that anyone who can sell their comrades into bondage or stand by and see them jailed, can have no morals or principles whatsoever.

R. Gillespie
(Govan and Gorbals Young Socialists)

The above is reprinted from an old copy of the Trotskyist youth paper 'Rally'.

FOR SOCIALISTS WHO have remained true to their ideals all their lives it is easy to recognise the degradation of those who have started their political lives as champions of the working class, only to climb the political ladder in the Party or the Union, jettisoning all their earlier principles as they reached each rung.

Bob Gillespie of Sogat '82 is no exception. The quote opposite was written in the early sixties when he was a member of the Young Socialists long before he assumed the present mantle he now holds.

Gillespie's speech at the last picket was loaded with references to 'provocateurs' and exhortations to 'clear the road' and follow the instructions of the police - a clear indictment of his betrayal of not only the trade unionists he represents but of the many socialists in the Labour Movement who have shown their solidarity with the strikers at Wapping.

• Watch out for the next issue of PICKET, the excellent newsheet (and inspiration for our little paper) produced entirely by Wapping pickets - now running into it's 35th edition!

• If you've got any news, comments, views, information etc. on what's going on at Kinning Park then we want to know and, with luck, publish what you've got to say. Write to us at: Box 14, 340 West Princes Street, Glasgow G12.

people. The Labour movement must build on these strengths to bring about a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of power and wealth in favour of working people. Let us forge a Labour Party worthy of your efforts. Yours etc...
Member of European Parliament, Lancashire East"

Comp's Note: Sounds like a nauseating load of patronising drivel to me. What do you think?

A POEM

My Husband

For ten long months I've watched him go
Out for another long night,
In wind and rain and ice and snow
To stand up for what is right.

He's always been a printer
He knew his job, like you,
But craftsmanship's not what HE wants –
Now anyone will do.

My man is not a militant,
He does not scream and shout,
But because he's in the NGA
That Dingo said – "You're out:"

"If you want a job at Wapping
All you have to do,
Is just tear up your Union card
And join the Double EPTU."

No chance, said my husband,
I'm a printer like the rest,
So I'll stand here at the picket
Till you realise we're the BEST.

Murdoch's a multi-millionaire,
Filthy rich, it's true,
He's played a game with all our lives
To save a pound or two.

Now Maggie doesn't give a damn,
She pats him on the head,
She's even gagged the media
So no-one really knows what's said.

Whatever comes out of this mess,
Whatever you may do,
To all who stand at Wapping's gates,
Good Luck – to all of you.

Wife of Sun NGA/ Machine.

● Belated greetings to a clerical strikers' newsletter, *Hard Times*.

● **Correction** to *Picket* no. 36, which said that a list of mistakes in scab lists would be published in the present issue of *Wapping Post*. Nothing was published.

Tuesday 16th December Hangers Picket Line Roehampton. Over 50 printworkers amongst the 250 strong pickets. Usually 2 coppers on line - today 30+. Silentnight present as well. Workers uniting where it matters on the picket gate. Abuse of scabs very vociferous especially when a white van (it's the same the whole world over) carrying artificial limbs was besieged. Even more coppers called to ensure a safe passage. Left after 4 hours with Hangers pickets uplifted after a very productive morning's work.

Over 330 have been sacked. * * * * *
After about an hour at the gate we had a march round the plant. On the second lap we encountered a very nervous scab who was eventually helped away by scabs in blue.

Tuesday 9th December March to Brixton Prison. A large march estimated between 300 and 2000 took place from Peckham AUEW HQ lobby to jail where Hicks was held. He has now been moved out of London.

Income: 60p resident; 50p Saturday night; £9.35 NGA strikers; £1 *Mirror* NGA; £1 NUJ striker; £5 NGA machine; £5 Corby; £2 Wednesday night; £3.01 Bexleyheath unemployed collection; £2 Leicester.

Published by print union pickets and residents

Picket, c/o Housman's Books, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX

Free Jailed Printers
Free Shirfield, Hicks
Picket Home Office
Monday 22nd December 3 pm
nr St James Park tube
Union sponsored

"Illegal March"
Against Public Order Act
Saturday 3rd January
12 noon Clock Tower Place
nr Caledonia Rd tube N.7
Organised by CAPR

Regular picket 2am
Sat. night/Sun. morning
Melton Rd TNT depot
Syston, Leicester

Mass Picket
Convoys Wharf
New Kings Street
Deptford SE8, 8 am
Saturday 20th December
Org. by Print Support Groups

