

☛ This issue is given over almost entirely to one excellent article. Reports on Saturday night march, very good Tuesday march from Peckham, scab vans and lorries redecorated, Wednesday march through Aldgate scab route, women's march and attack/arrest, then three more arrests and vigil at Leman St police strikebreakers' HQ... All to follow in next issue, coming out shortly.

Testimony: What It Means to Me. Having gone to some considerable trouble and time to get my son a job in "The Print" and succeeded, I felt really pleased with life. I could now sit back and relax; my son was not going to be a statistic on the dole, wandering about aimlessly and being tempted into trouble and all that goes with being a school-leaver in the '80s.

Imagine my horror when he came home and told me he had been sacked because he had voted to strike. I am not in The Print, so I don't know all the details. What is more, I don't need to know the facts to know that a terrible injustice has been done. It horrifies me that a British government can allow it to happen. It sickens me that other trade unionists can allow it to happen. But above all it makes me absolutely ashamed that any British person, regardless of politics or creed, can allow it to happen. Are we as a nation so apathetic that anyone can steamroller over us and our traditions and freedoms?

I have never had any political leanings one way or the other. My law has always been: "Leave me alone and I will leave you alone", "Hurt me, and I'll hurt you." I have never expected or received protection or help from the establishment. But I have always wrongly taken it for granted that they would never allow an attack such as this on workers of this country. At the same time, I have brought my children up again wrongly it seems, that us British would stand up to any such attack and repel it. I don't see any sign of this. I know a lot of people are helping in some way or other, but I am talking about millions and millions of people that should be standing shoulder to shoulder as we did through two world wars. They're trying to change the way of life in this country forever, and to put us back a hundred years or more. It took a lot of bloodshed and martyrdom to get us our rights and our lifestyle, and I feel it will take a lot more of both to hold on to it, especially if the majority sit back and let it happen.

My son attended the first march to Wapping, and a few of his pals were arrested. As a result, I attended the next one with him, and nearly every one since. What I have seen of the police action in this dispute leads me to honestly believe that this whole business was connived and planned by Murdoch, the Government and the Police well in advance of your strike actually starting. The reasons I think this, are the design and location of the plant, the number of laws that Murdoch can break without any action being taken. For example, if I build a wall or fence around my home without planning permission, I am forced to take it down or suffer the consequences, which are swift and severe, leading to eviction in some cases. For Murdoch, nothing. If I use a helicopter anywhere without permission, I would have a police escort waiting for me when I landed and be automatically grounded. And severely fined or locked up, in some cases. For Murdoch, nothing. If I knocked a policeman down with my lorry, whatever the situation, I would be at the very least locked up for a day and fined. For Murdoch's men, nothing. And if I drove deliberately into a crowd of people, I would be looking at 12 months inside, at least. For Murdoch's drivers, nothing. So it must prove that the police are in support of Murdoch.

Now if the police are in support of him, and remember that is not their job, they are supposed to be unbiased and their sole function should be to protect him and us in a demonstration. They are not there to make judgements. Merely to protect and keep order. It stands to reason if you believe this, as I do, that it must be with government backing. The police are supposed to be under orders from them. It's yes you can go, no you can't. So the three must be in on some sort of pact. It therefore means that in Murdoch's case it has been proved beyond any reasonable doubt that he planned all this years in advance. He would not or indeed could not have planned it without the full knowledge that he was going to be supported by police and government. It would have all been a waste of time and money. So the big question must be, what do the police get out of it. Overtime? You see the Government get the unions smashed, and Murdoch gets a cheap, easy-to-control workforce and later a gong of some kind. But it leaves us with the police. What do they get?

Do they need a practice ground for the riot police? Do they need to justify their numbers by having a disturbance? Or are they like the Army during National Service days? Run by a bunch of warmongers looking and praying for a war to start somewhere? It might sound crazy, but how many times have we seen them do things at Wapping just to antagonise the crowd. How about riding up and down the Highway in their transits with copies of the *Sun* stuck in the windows. Or pushing people back when asking would have been simpler. The only thing I know the police have got out of this for sure, is my undying hatred. After what I have seen at Wapping, I will hate that uniform and the animals that wear it for the rest of my life. My only dream left is that one of them will want my help one day, and I will have the pleasure of saying "get stuffed". And I hope it is a pint of blood he wants.

I have been kicked, punched, truncheoned, dragged by my legs, charged by horses, stood toe to toe with the riot mob, arrested, wrongly charged and wrongly convicted. But with my philosophy, it does not matter. "You hurt me, I hurt you." It works for me every time. But I still attend the marches, and will continue to do so. You don't run away even when you are out-gunned by a ruthless enemy. You learn, as a fox learns to steal chickens. Or a little bee learns to sting humans. It does not matter how big or powerful the enemy, he can always be beaten by determination and cunning. It is another part of our tradition that no force on earth can take away from us. Remember the famous "Fight them on the beaches" speech? Well, we don't need beaches, we have the whole of Britain to fight them in. We don't need guns, we have our brains. We don't need tanks, we have our feet. Above all, we don't need generals, we have our minds. We must think what will hurt most, and then act. What hurts any capitalist? Loss of money. We have all got brains enough to work out ways of making him lose money or spend it. Think and act! Don't be too concerned with Wapping. If you cut an artery, the heart dies anyway!

To hurt the police is far easier. Their big kick is making an arrest. Prevent it. Don't get caught. Stay in numbers. Back each other up. Don't fall into the traps they set. Be vigilant. Think! If they want you herded into Wellclose - why? Because you are contained. Don't let them contain you. Spread out. We have the whole area to picket. The government is a far easier foe. You get off your arse, and remember the lesson: once you have them out, keep them out. And before you vote for the others, get them on a short leash to throw out this legislation. Badger them now. Let us get it definite. It's no use waiting until they have

been elected. I didn't even know where my MP was until recently, but I know now, and he knows me now. He also knows that my vote means four votes through my family. As I say, I have never been political, but the time is right to stand up and be counted.

There are a lot of strangers out there amongst you, to whom I shall be forever grateful. Some have stood by my shoulder when the going was rough. I feel proud to have marched with you, fought with you, and on many an occasion nearly drowned with you. "I call him Murdoch the god of rain." If I have nothing else when I die, I will have the memory of some brave boys, girls, men and women, who have stood up to a tyrant and his army and fought back against overwhelming odds. To the not so brave and the weak I say, feel no shame, you did your bit by being there. To the absentees I say wake up, grow up and stand up. It's your life and future we are fighting for. We need help. Apart from that, surely you need your self respect.

So what does it mean to me? I have always got by, without unions or government and of any kind. Why am I here night after night? Why do I put my wife through the misery and uncertainty week after week? Why do I put my liberty at stake night after night? I'll tell you. It's because if I didn't, I would not be able to live with myself. They attacked my son; they stole his livelihood; they have tried to condemn him to a life of unemployment, frustration, misery, which leads to a life of crime, drink or drugs. That is attempted murder, in my book. Two of the people you normally go to in a situation like that are in collusion with the perpetrator of the crime. That only leaves me. The instigator of the crime, "The Union", seem to be dragging their feet. So I am here to support, to help. And to do all in my power to put right this injustice, or to die trying.

So if one of you Hendon Muppets do manage to read this, remember this, my buck in blue: the next time you draw your truncheon on me, you are only hitting yourself in the face. You are beating up humanity. You are suppressing your own freedom. You, by your own stupid action of arresting an innocent man or woman are by that very act imprisoning yourself.

When you hold up a scab newspaper at your transit window, you are not inciting or upsetting us, you are just confirming a widely held opinion that you are a scab labour force working for Murdoch - a liar and a cheat, because in actual fact you are supposed to be a policeman, policing for the people, by consent of the people. Think, man, and when you have thought, resign. Saying at the judgement day that "you were only obeying orders" does not get you a light sentence. Ask Hess!

Brothers, I hope I can call you that, now I am here and here to stay to the end. I hope you will all stay with me. If we lose, we have won. If we win we can get pissed. We were not, nor never will be, defeated. Fuck the leaders, long live the pickets. That's what it means to me.

Clerkenwell Green: 3 o'clock Tuesday 28th October: The SOGAT casual march in support of our Imprisoned Brothers got off to a rain-sodden start. Small in numbers, only 100, due to the unfortunate clash with the AEU demo. Spirits were high and we were well received by passers-by and sympathisers on route to the Pentonville Hilton. Escorted by Y Division (they know where they're safe, these Tottenham coppers), the march passed Kings Cross nick. From the safety of a Green Police Bus, one of Murdoch's boot-boys held up to the window a copy of the *Sun*. Within seconds this grinning moron transformed a good-natured march into a seething mass of anger. After much pushing and shoving, it calmed down when we were assured that the officer in charge had the number of the "Thing" and action would be taken. The march resumed, but in a much changed atmosphere. On arrival at Pentonville, we were pushed onto the pavement. One broken head later (ours, of course) and a badly battered LCB Banner, but no arrests, and the march was over. If only we had the numbers on these day-time marches, who knows what could be achieved.

● In sharp contrast to the disgusting print union scabs who dishonour us all by selling Murdoch's scab papers, there stand out as a fine example to us all two individuals who have never sold Murdoch's scab rags from day one. They are: Mr A. Patel, Krishna Stores, 11 St Bride Street (next to side exit to *Daily Express*). Also Michael (Scouse) News stand on corner of Bouverie Street. Michael has been harassed by N.I. management and scabs, also by City Police for calling a scab a scab. He is always present on all evening marches, and has carried the *Standard* banner on occasions. These men support us, so please give them your custom and support them:

● Any person with any knowledge of print union members who are selling Murdoch's scab papers should compile a list of names and addresses with telephone nos etc and display such lists in their place of work, so these scabs may be shamed and persuaded to support their fellow workers. (*Picket* welcomes all information regarding newsagents who do *not* sell Murdoch's newspapers. Let us know and we'll spread the word.)

● The schools are open. There are several Polys close to Wapping. Time to organise daytime marches to these Polys and back to picket.



10th November 2.00pm
Demo Against Health Cuts
Alexander Fleming House
Rockingham Street SE1

Anti-Fascist Action
9th November 1.00pm
Trafalgar Square

4th November 1.00pm
March to Wapping
from London
College of Printing
Elephant & Castle



Income: £3 sales; £5 supporter; £5 *Evening Standard* driver; £5 *Telegraph* RIRMA member; £2 SOGAT machine; £2 Tate & Lyle worker; 50p picket; £11.51 NGA strikers.

Published by picketing print union members and residents.
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