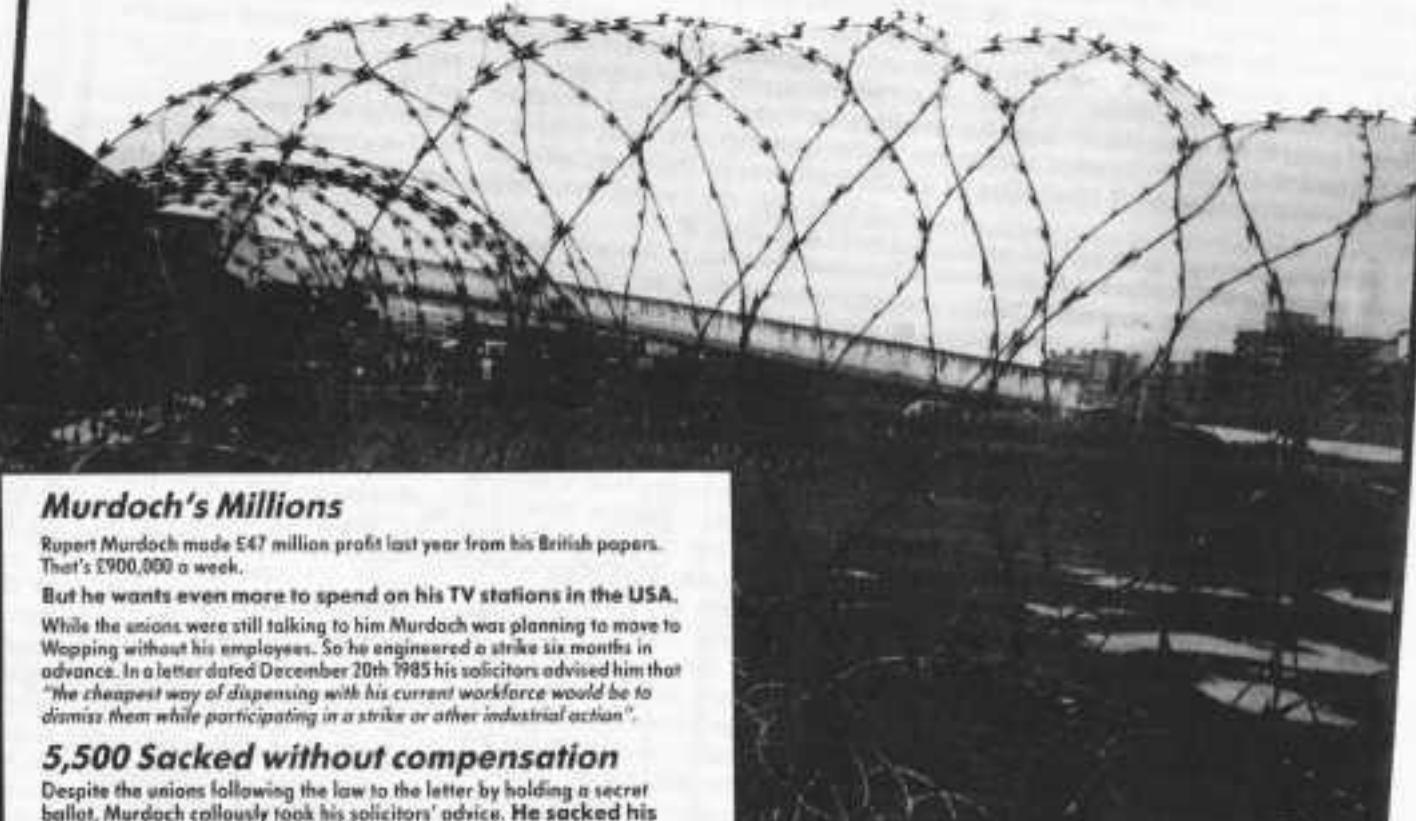


THE TRUTH BEHIND THE BARBED WIRE



Murdoch's Millions

Rupert Murdoch made £47 million profit last year from his British papers. That's £900,000 a week.

But he wants even more to spend on his TV stations in the USA.

While the unions were still talking to him Murdoch was planning to move to Wapping without his employees. So he engineered a strike six months in advance. In a letter dated December 20th 1985 his solicitors advised him that "the cheapest way of dispensing with his current workforce would be to dismiss them while participating in a strike or other industrial action".

5,500 Sacked without compensation

Despite the unions following the law to the letter by holding a secret ballot, Murdoch callously took his solicitors' advice. He sacked his 5,500 employees and didn't pay a penny of redundancy money.

Journalist Eric Butler worked for the SUN for more than 16 years. All he got from Murdoch was a letter beginning "Dear Sir or Madam" telling him he was sacked.

Eileen Lindsay, a punch card operator at the Sunday Times for 8 years, says "Life has certainly been tough since Murdoch sacked us. I have two young children to keep, and I just about managed when I was working."

Martin Green, a printing press engineer says "We had already agreed to move to Wapping but Murdoch forced us into striking so he could sack us. I've never been on strike before in my life. I worked for Murdoch for 16 years."

Murdoch is avoiding his responsibilities to 5,500 people like Eric, Eileen and Martin. That is the main issue. The question of what to do with his unwanted print works is a secondary issue. We don't believe in trading property for people.

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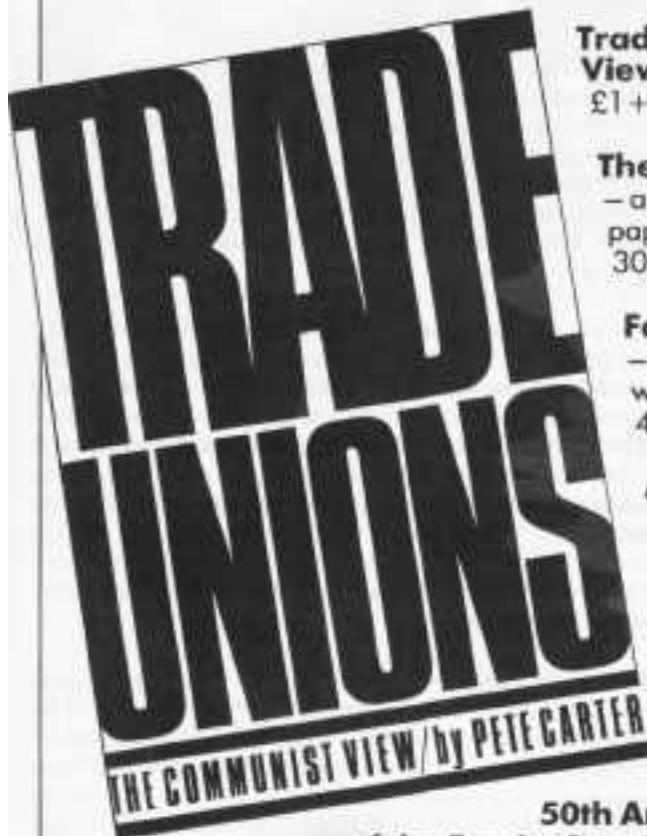
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- Zak Mokron and Seth Harman debate 'Should socialists support Israel?' (8 July 3.45pm)
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