

METROPOLITAN POLICE

(COPY)

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

.....28th day of November 1974

SUBJECT

- 1) S.W.Litho
- 2) U.P.A.L.

Reference to Papers

- 1) 100/69/119
- 2) 347/74/16

To [redacted] 29 NOV 1974

BOX 500

1. The following information has been received from a reliable source:-

2. There has recently been a dispute between S.W. Litho and 'Up Against The Law' (U.P.A.L.). The latter claim that S.W. Litho deliberately sabotaged issue number 6 of their magazine by taking £300 from them in advance, then pulping the issue and refusing to refund the money, thereby acting in their view as 'police agents'. The S.W. print shop staff have issued a press release, detailing the 'facts'.

3. The release states that the UPAL artwork was passed for printing only after receipt of a covering letter from their solicitors giving legal clearance and a legal indemnity. The printshop took the £300 as a down-payment out of the total bill of £570. After production of the order, 10,000 copies printed and bound, the attention of the printshop manager was drawn to the contents of the publication, with reference to possible libel. Legal advice was sought and they were advised of the seriousness of the libels contained in the issue; they were also advised that under the law of libel the printers could be penalised in the case of a publisher's lack of funds. Lawyers estimated possible damages at £10,000 for each of the four most serious cases of libel. The release claims that by its own admission UPAL has no assets, so this would make S.W. Litho financially responsible. Distribution of the issue was therefore withheld, and three days notice was given of the intention to destroy all the copies. However, nothing was heard from UPAL until the day after destruction.

4. The question of a refund of the £300 has apparently been raised by UPAL. The printers' attitude is that the full cost of the work (£570) went into production of the magazine and in view of the worthless indemnity it was fully justifiable to charge UPAL for a share of the materials, namely the £300 already paid.

5. The press release declares that S.W. Litho does not operate censorship but cannot be expected to carry financial responsibility for legal damages awarded against customers. It concludes by saying

"In a period when our printshop is under heavy political attack by the state, when every publication leaving the printshop is scrutinised in an attempt to break our organisation financially, we are not prepared to take foolish risks. It is easy for UPAL to whine about censorship and

make ludicrous charges about 'police agents'. Their organization represents nothing. They have nothing to lose, no have."

[Handwritten signature]
Chief Inspector

[Redacted area]

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CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

FOX 800

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