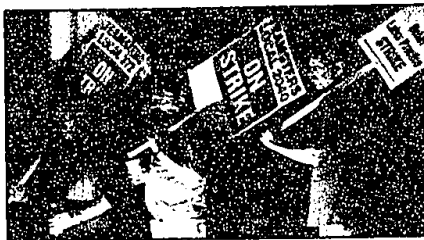




Traffic stoppers: Strikers deliver a message as they walk in front of cars pulling into the newspaper distribution site.

On the march: Strikers temporarily prevent autos from picking up papers Tuesday at the Farmington Hills distribution center.



## Strike from page 5A

"I don't come in before 6 a.m., before daybreak," she said. "I haven't had any trouble since."

Most carriers still come in during the wee, dark hours, driving past angry strikers over the 50 yards of no-man's land that end at the warehouse.

A security guard at the site had no comment. But Detroit News Senior Vice President for Labor Relations Tim Kelleher had plenty to say.

"We're at 50-60 percent of our distribution rate and climbing," Kelleher said. "We have 1,200 to 1,300 carriers who are staying."

Kelleher said, contrary to other reports, the newspapers are using management staff to fill reporting and other newroom slots, and supervisors to do the printing, not out-of-town replacement workers. "You don't go out on the street and hire a reporter," he said. "It's amazing the kind of efficiencies we are making." Kelleher said, adding that if the strike continues for long, reporters, photographers and other workers will probably be brought in from other Gannett Publishing papers.

### They're not talking

For now, negotiations are off, and those frustrated strikers are looking at a long, hot summer.

"They asked us for concessions for the JOA (Joint Operating Agreement), and we said OK," said strike captain Jerry Gill.

"Now they want more." Striking workers say they can't understand how a company making \$55 million in profits can cry poor. And they suspect the object for management is to "lose the News" and make Detroit a one-metro newspaper town.

"We made a profit in 1994, but not \$55 million," Kelleher said. "But we made only a small profit in '92 and '93, and during the 80s, we were so far in the hole there wasn't even a glimmer of a profit."

So far, some big advertisers have stayed away from the two papers and taken their business elsewhere. That, said Kelleher, is probably temporary. But union loyalists say those advertisers know that the communities in the area are heavily unionized.

"I don't think they are going to want that kind of trouble," said Million.

And although both sides have said the Farmington Hills police have done a good job, Chief Bill Dwyer is concerned about the drain on city resources.

"We have the responsibility to keep the peace," Dwyer said. "Sterling Heights police have already spent over \$100,000 in overtime."

Dwyer said Farmington Hills police have an overtime budget for priority investigations and incidents like this one, but at some

point, that will run out.

"We'll see what happens," he said. "If it (the strike) goes on, at some point we'll talk about it (with the city manager)."

"But we can't leave the scene and have something happen," Dwyer said.

For now, the carriers will have to contend with some angry strikers, the unions face a potentially long strike with little financial help (Teamsters will not receive strike pay and guild members will get \$150 a week), and the papers will continue printing.

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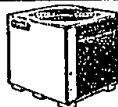
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