



● This is Joe Strummer and Paul Simonon of the Clash, regarded by many as the leading new wave rock band, who will shortly make their recording debut. The band's manager, Bernard Rhodes, this week confirmed that a record contract with a major company is imminent, though he was unable to confirm that the Clash would sign with Polydor, who have long expressed interest in contracting them.

● The group recently spent two

days in the Polydor studio with producer Guy Stevens, which further enhanced rumours that they would sign for that company, but a spokesman for Polydor commented that this should not be taken as evidence that any agreement has been reached by the two parties. "Polydor is still interested in the Clash," he continued, "and we are close to signing them. But we've been close to signing groups before and it hasn't come off."

● It is certain, however, that Stevens will not be producing the band, whoever they eventually sign to. "We picked Guy Stevens," said Rhodes, "because we wanted a nut case to produce the band, because that's what our music is all about. But there are different kinds of nut cases, and it didn't work out with him."

● The Clash have now decided to produce themselves.