

EMI and Sex Pistols row

SEX PISTOLS could lose their record contract if they continue to say nasty words in public — but they would probably be able to keep the £40,000 cash from entertainment giant EMI, writes Michael Walters.

Describing last week's Thames TV interview with the controversial punk rock group as "disgraceful" EMI chairman Sir John Read said yesterday that his company would decide within a week whether or not to break the £40,000 contract granted the group.

Earlier Sir John had told 150 shareholders (who had passed an elaborate security check to gain admittance to the EMI annual meeting in London) that sex pistols was the only punk rock group under a direct recording contract with EMI records, and whether any more of their records were released would have to be very carefully considered.

Told that the group had made blasphemous references to the Queen at a concert in Leeds last night, he asked staff to make an investigation for him, and said that this would not help the group when it came to reviewing the contract.

On the profit scene, Sir John reaffirmed his annual report prediction of further progress.