

# Sex Pistols Drummed out of concert

Birmingham Post Reporter

A concert by the Sex Pistols "punk rock" group was cancelled by the tenants of Bingley Hall, Birmingham, yesterday.

Mr. Tim Bickford, chairman of Birmingham Agricultural Exhibition Society, which leases the hall from the city council, said the society had not been told such groups would be playing when the booking, for December 20, was accepted.

He said: "It was not until this morning developed that we knew that one of the groups appearing would be the Sex Pistols.

"Had we known about it, we should never have entertained the idea. We do not have much experience of such groups.

"We have had a long association with the city council and would never have agreed to do anything that might cause offence to the citizens of Birmingham."

Mr. Vernon Prestwood, the society's secretary, said the society was legally obliged to cancel the concert. The concert organisers had not found another group to put on the bill, or another venue for the Sex Pistols.

## Protest

Last week, Coun. Edward Lawson, Chairman of Birmingham Leisure Services Committee, cancelled a booking by the group at the Town Hall after a previous interview in which members of the Sex Pistols used four-letter words which provoked protest from viewers.

Earlier this week, Birmingham Licensing Magistrates granted permission for the concert at Bingley Hall. After the hearing, it was revealed that the Sex Pistols would be topping the bill.

The decision to cancel was welcomed by Coun. Leslie Beworth, leader of Birmingham City Council. Mr. John Tully, one of the concert's promoters, described the decision as "staggering".

He said: "This is getting things out of all proportion. I want to speak as a citizen of Birmingham and ask if anyone at the council or the agricultural society has ever seen the group's act. If so, why the concert has been cancelled.

"I have seen the Sex Pistols act and they do not constantly swear. If the group did a concert at Bingley Hall, no-one would be forced to see them. People would go because they wanted to see the act."