

S.C.M.P.

29 October, 1976

Bill no comfort to business community

THE Postmaster General in his letter (S.C.M. Post, October 21) argues that the new Bill does not extend the postal monopoly.

With the wording being so obscure, it seems sterile to argue what is the precise scope of his monopoly. The Postmaster General claims a monopoly over "letters" which, according to the definition section in the Bill, "includes every communication from one person or body of persons to another person or body of persons, sent on any material, by means of any words or other signs, however produced on such material so sent but does not include any item of communication specified in the schedule."

The statement that the new monopoly will be no more restrictive than the old is no comfort to the business community.

In 1973 the Postmaster General prosecuted a firm for

sending business material outside of the post. Included in the charges were the following:

- A covering memo in respect of a bundle of 1,341 cheques amounting to US-\$164,675.80.

- An envelope containing magnetic tape freight documentation.

- An envelope containing bills of lading, invoices and shipping documents.

Cheques are now excluded from the monopoly under the proposed schedule, but the covering memorandum is not. Magnetic tapes are excluded only if "produced on a regular periodic basis and conveyed from the office originating the data processing material to a data processing centre, or vice versa."

Is the Postmaster General saying that, in respect of such material, he will prosecute if the new Bill is enacted?

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