Receipt for \textbullet{} 1972.20 was approved.

The minutes were noted and the annual subscription of $2.00 was received.

Donations.

- to the music committee
- for the board

Property.

The minutes were noted and the annual subscription of $2.00 was received.

Committee meeting held on Thursday, 4th January, 1976.
At the January 1966

Committee Meeting held on January 18, 1966,

President: Resolved that a budget of $5,000.00 be sent

Secretary: Resolved that a budget of $5,000.00 be sent

The secretary reported that the property has been purchased.

It was noted that the bathrooms for the two horseradish plants

It was noted that the horseradish planting had been approved by

The Secretary reported on the collection of $1,000.00 and approved.

Resolved that in meeting be held next week which is needed.

Against the end of January

The sub-committee chairman gave a report on the meeting

The Secretary gave details of the $1,000.00 paid to the

Resolved that the weekly report be approved.

As practicable accommodation

Chap. 90, does not provide for the same.

And employees of the company have been

Economic protection of the various methods of development

It was noted that the employees of the company have been

Resolved that the application form be filed with the

Heard the report and seconded.

In addition to the above report, the

The Secretary gave details of the co-operative union requirements

Committee Meeting held on January 18, 1966.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 4th January, 1968.

Hours and Wages.
The revised details of the new National Wages During Sickness Agreement which provided for a maximum of 30 weeks sick pay and was operative from the 1st January, 1968, was considered and approved.

Dairy.
It was reported the Mr. P. Montague had appeared in Court and had pleaded guilty to all charges. His case had been deferred for two weeks to await a Probation Officers report. It was noted that the C.I.S. would discuss the Claim with the Secretary in the near future.

Co-operative Union.
Regional Plan. Copies of a Regional Plan to amalgamate all Societies into 50 Regional Societies were provided and it was reported that details from this plan had been published in the papers on Sunday, 31st December, four days before receipt by Societies. This was thought to be bad relationship and the Secretary was instructed to so inform the Co-operative Union. Resolved that the Plan be considered next week.

Grocery.
The Manager reported that Mrs. Christine Lewis of Stourport Grocery had confessed to misappropriation of Milk Tokens and there was some investigation of her accounts for groceries together with those of Mrs. I. Taylor another member of the staff. Mrs. C. Lewis was in an advanced stage of pregnancy and had now terminated her services, so the Board agreed with Mr. John that no further action be taken. Resolved that a letter of reprimand be sent to Mr. H. Farmer who was not obeying the instructions given that all staff purchases should be dealt with by him or the first assistant. Resolved that the Grocery Manager check all shop records of staff purchases.

Reports.
Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Snack Bar.
Details of the Snack Bar receipts before 2 p.m. and after were provided for the month of December and after brief consideration it was referred to the Sub-committee for further consideration.

Superannuation.
The President reported upon the earlier Superannuation meeting when the Actuary’s advice to reduce the averaging period for pension purposes from 5 years to 3 years was unanimously approved. The Annual Superannuation Meeting had been fixed for the 22nd January after the Quarterly Meeting.

Departmental Comparisons.
A statement was provided of Co-operative Union comparisons for gross and net profits and expenses and the Secretary explained the significance of the various figures for which he was thanked.

Central Premises.
Store Detectives. Three children from one family had been caught stealing chocolates last week and a woman had been suspected but not apprehended.

Dairy.
Resolved that the second Dairy Sub-committee be called for Friday, 2nd February at 6.30 p.m.

Education.
Resolved that Mr. C. Cooper, the Electrician be presented with his Apprenticeship Certificate and a monetary award in the Board Room at a convenient date.

President.

Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 11th January, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Messrs. C. Walters and B. Thompson were absent.

Minutes.
Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Grocery.
A further report was given of the economics of purchasing £10,000 extra cigarettes and it was seen that it was not so lucrative as was first thought. Mr. John was however endeavouring to purchase some smaller quantities.

Co-operative Union.
It was agreed after discussion that the Regional Plan dealing with amalgamation and the Co-operative Union Appraisal of the Balance Sheet be considered at 7 a.m. on Friday, 19th January.

Property.
Foley Park Old Bakery. It was noted that the Social Club would meet the Sub-committee of the Board on the 15th January.

Education.
A copy of a Certificate given to M.E.B. employees was provided and it was agreed that a suitable copy be made for Mr. C. Cooper.

Investments.
It was reported that Messrs. Wigston Hosiers were going into voluntary liquidation. Our investment was £5 and it was agreed that General Proxy be given.

C.W.S. Bank.
It was noted that this organisation would be known as "Co-operative Bank" in future.

C.W.S.
The reorganisation of the Furnishing Salerooms at Manchester, Bristol, London and Newcastle was noted.

Hours and Wages.
Matters dealing with the N.U.C.O. review, Electricians rates and Wages during Sickness were reported from the National Hours and Wages Board.

Hire Purchase.
A report from the Bank stated that Mr. F. C. Clifton was considered quite good for Hire Purchase facilities.

Dairy.
The results of the Joint Milk Promotion were received when Messrs. Bishop, Salmon and the Manager had obtained small prizes. The President and Mr. F. P. Hunt were invited to the Prize Distribution together with the two men on the 24th January and this was approved.

Reports.
Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Dairy.
The Manager reported that the snow had caused considerable disruption with the tankers coming from the farms. He was 3,000 gallons short on one day but he hoped that the position would improve by tomorrow.

Education.
A report was given of the meeting with the Education Committee where the possibilities of the Industrial Training Act had been considered. A number of questions had been asked and it was thought that the meeting had been useful as an introduction of the subject to the Education Committee.

Mutuality.
Mr. J. Parker having completed 40 years service with the Society it was resolved that a presentation be made to him in the near future.

Central Premises.
Store Detectives. The Secretary reported that Mr. Woodhouse of Comberton Park Road had been apprehended by the Store Detective who alleged that he had been shoplifting. The police were dealing with the matter.

Butchers Pool.
The Balance Sheet for the half-year ending 30th December was provided and 1/2d in the £ rebate would be recommended. Satisfaction was expressed.

18th January, 1968.

[Signature]
President.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 18th January, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. C. Walters was absent. The Secretary reported that he had visited him and found that he was suffering from a slight relapse but still was cheerful.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Grocery.

It was reported that the manager had purchased an additional £2,000 of cigarettes and it was realised that this would not be paid for until the end of January.

Mutuality.

Mr. J. G. Parker had requested a Cocktail Cabinet and it was agreed that one be presented to him at the Quarterly Meeting.

Central Premises.

Store Detectives. The Secretary reported that two boys had been apprehended namely Ronald Gillam and Vincent Fury who had stolen tinned goods from the Grocery. The police had been informed.

In connection with the apprehending of Mr. Woodhouse last week the Secretary made an appeal for him on the grounds that he was in considerable doubt that his inventions had been stolen. The matter was fully discussed but it was agreed that matters should take their course.

Investments.

Kayce Clothing Limited had had a bad year making £5,000 loss, on the other hand Equity Shoes had done well.

Co-operative Party.

Resolved that Messrs. N. R. Jones and B. Thompson attend the Conference on the 10th February dealing with East-West Trade.

Notice of a May Day Meeting to be addressed by the Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson, O.B.E., M.P., in the Birmingham Town Hall on the 5th May, was received and it was agreed that seven tickets be sent for.

Dairy.

Resolved that Messrs. W. Davis, M. R. Jones and P. R. Hunt attend the Training Board Conference on the 30th January at Smethwick.

It was reported that Mr. F. Montague had been put on Probation for three years and had to pay £5 per week restitution until £389 is repaid.

The Secretary and the Manager reported that the new Milk Storage Tank seemed to have settled. Resolved that approximately £250 be withheld from the builders until the matter is cleared.

It was agreed that enquiries be made as to the need for steel plates under the feet.

Property.

Resolved the the Garage at the rear of 136 Wood Street be purchased from Mr. J. G. Parker for £30.

Jenca and the Fish Shop. Our Architects provided three drawings showing road width and swept path areas for three sizes of vehicles entering the proposed access area at the Fish Shop. It was seen that the larger the entrance the smaller the shop and the Secretary recommended that the smallest entrance be acceptable to give a shop of 120 sq. feet. After some discussion this was approved unanimously.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

The high Dairy leakage was noted.

-over-
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 18th January, 1968.

**Property.**

Foley Park Old Bakery. A report was given of the meeting with the Social Club members when the question of alternative accommodation or compensation was discussed. The Secretary had been asked to make enquiries regarding Rame Street School and Larches Club but the Estate Agent had shown him Broadwaters Church Hall which might be for sale. Resolved that this be discussed with Mr. S. Neredith.

The Secretary reported that the retrospective increase to the mechanics would cost £100.

**Hours and Wages.**

Mr. A. Gardner, Grocery Branch Manager requested a £300 loan which would be guaranteed by his father. This would be repaid when a house was sold at Cookley. Resolved that £300 be loaned to him from Share Account No. 46.

**Grocery.**

Foley Park. It was reported that a burglary last night had resulted in a loss of £403 in cigarettes and nylons.

**Property.**

Lion Square. The gale last Sunday had lifted off the roofs of some old cottages and consequently broken the roof of the Park Factory and that of the Pharmacy Warehouse lean-to. Consequent upon this the old cottage walls were in a dangerous condition in relation to Woolworths builders below and it was agreed that they be demolished as soon as possible. Other provision for lairage and chemist warehouse would probably need to be made at a later date.

[Signature]

President.

Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Friday, 19th January, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and apologies from Mr.H.R.Jones and Mr.C.Walters were received.

The meeting was called primarily to discuss the Co-operative Union Regional Plan for amalgamations and the Co-operative Union appraisal of this Society's September 1967 Balance Sheet.

Before these matters were discussed the following items were dealt with.

**Property.**

High Street, Stourport on Severn. Resolved that the Conveyance dealing with the sale of this property to Messrs. Woolworths for £25,500 be signed and sealed.

**Furnishing.**

Mr.J.Minett wished to attend the London Furniture Exhibition for three days and after some discussion this was approved.

**Regional Plan.**

The details of the plan had previously been circulated and it was seen that it was to recommend the merger of Worcester, Kidderminster and Highley Societies. The Secretary briefly dealt with the aims of and the need for such a plan and many questions were asked. During general discussion the following views were put forward:

1. No advantage to Kidderminster Society could be seen.
2. We might loose trade and capital.
3. Size and survival would be influenced by trying to trade in scattered areas of Worcestershire.
4. The costs of transport over these wide spread areas might be prohibitive.
5. The question of the two Superannuation Funds was considered.
6. The merging of two departments under one manager was not favoured.
7. The merging of the three Societies under Mr.T.Wood was not favoured.
8. It was thought that the relative strengths and weaknesses in terms of dividend rates paid would reduce Kidderminster dividend rate.
9. Worcester's decision to appoint a Dry Goods Trade Officer was noted.

In general the Regional Plan found little favour although it was realised that this meeting was only a preliminary one and that national implications would be considered at Scarborough Congress this year.

**Balance Sheet Appraisal.**

This also had been previously circulated and the Secretary dealt with various details of explanation and answered a number of questions. He dealt in detail with the liquidity position saying that in his opinion the following investments were liquid - Kidderminster Corporation £82,000 and Co-operative Permanent Building Society £15,361. If so, the liquidity ratio was 25% and not 10.75%. The question would be taken up with the Co-operative Union, although he felt that a 10.75% ratio was reasonable.

The Co-operative Union warning notes regarding the fall in Share Capital and the relatively low reserve position were also considered and the Secretary suggested that further thought should be given to the share interest rate although he had no clear view of the best course to take at the moment. In regard to the comparatively low balance sheet reserves he pointed out that there were other reserves not shown on the balance sheet and that since 1954 £27,000 had been added to total reserves whereas a 1d dividend over those years totalled £91,000. The meeting ended with numerous congratulatory expressions to the Secretary for his guidance over the years for which he expressed pleasure and thanks.


President
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 25th January, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. C. Walters was absent.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting and those of the Special Meeting dated 19th January, be confirmed and signed.

Grocery.

A letter from Messrs. W.D. & H.O. Wills fixed quotas of cigarettes purchased between now and Budget Day, March 19th, which was some indication that prices might rise.

Central Premises.

Store Detectives. The Secretary reported that two girls aged 10 had been apprehended stealing a small amount of chocolate. In view of their age he had not reported to the Police but to their Headmaster, Mr. W. Blackford who promised to take up the matter with the parents. Resolved that this action be approved.

Dairy.

The Architects, the Builders and Messrs. Sika Limited were to meet at the Dairy on Friday to consider the Milk Tank sinkage. The Architects were now providing four steel plates on which the tank feet would rest and Messrs. Sika had promised to put the matter right. Resolved that this be approved and further consideration would be given later.

Details of improvements in Milk Margins were given which amounted to £154 for 1966, £173 for 1967 and £2,600 for 1968.

Property.

Foley Park Old Bakery. From enquiries it appeared that the Larches Club might be available and the Secretary promised to investigate the question of vacant schools.

Investments.

The Wigston Hoarders report and balance sheet was received and this referred to their voluntary liquidation.

The Midland Shires Farmers Balance Sheet also was received and it was seen that they had increased their Share and Loan Interest to 7½%. Resolved that the Secretary attend the meeting.

Education.

A further letter from the Sectional Education Secretary asked for a meeting with Worcester Society to consider a Group Staff Training Officer. Participation by Board members was suggested and Messrs. E.W. Harvey, M.R. Jones and B. Thompson were appointed.

Quarterly Meeting.

Mr. D.I. John was concerned at the complaint about prices of Cremo Oats and Corned Beef and explained by letter what he thought was the situation. His explanation was accepted and it was suggested that Mr. Booton the complainant was biased. It was suggested that the rule regarding 'complaints be made in writing' should be referred to in the Balance Sheet and the President's actions in dealing with these two matters was commended.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Dairy.

The President gave a short report upon the Milk Marketing Board awards ceremony and suggested that we might offer to be host next year.

Central Premises.

It was reported that the Co-operative Insurance Society had settled Mrs. E. Williams' claim for damages when she broke her leg three years ago, for £2,000.

Committee Dinner.

Resolved that a Dinner be given for Committee members and their wives together with Miss E.E. Horton, the Secretary and his wife. A Wednesday in February was suggested as was a coach for transport, and Severn Manor for the venue was agreed.

In the consideration of Sub-committees for the ensuing year it was resolved that the members be re-elected en bloc.

1st February, 1968.

[Signature]

President.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 1st February, 1963.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. C. Walters was absent.

Minutes.
Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Property.
Foley Park Old Bakery. A letter from Mr. S. Meredith thanked the Board for their consideration and suggested that the Wilton Avenue land would be suitable. It was agreed that the land be measured and sizes of possible Club Rooms be obtained. Other letters from St. Oswald's said that their Church Hall was for sale but the Education Officer for the W.C.C. could not offer any school accommodation. There was some further information about the Larches Club but nothing concrete.

Education.
The question of the Group Training Officer would be discussed towards the end of February.

Committee Dinner.
The meal had been booked for the 7th February for 8.30 p.m. and transport would be arranged from 7.30 p.m. onwards. The members would be notified by letter of the details.

Co-operative Party.
The preliminary Agenda was received and passed to Mr. H. E. Preston.

Congress.
Resolved that Mr. I. R. Webb and Mr. H. E. Preston and the Secretary together with Mr. J. Parker from the members be appointed delegates to the 1968 Congress.

Property.
High Street, Stourport on Severn. The Secretary reported that a cheque for £24,899 9. 9d had been received today and banked and this included payments of Estate Agents and Solicitors Fees.

Investment.
The Secretary gave details of possible investments and suggested that as there was no major items other than the Dairy Washer for the next three months, the whole of the £24,000 might be reinvested. The Secretary instanced Midland Shires Farmers at 7 3/4% and Kidderminster Corporation at 7 1/2% and C.W.S. at 6% and after considerable discussion and two amendments it was eventually resolved that the whole sum be reinvested in the Local Authority at 7 3/4%.

Co-operative Union.
Regional Plan. The Co-operative News asked for our views on the Regional Plan and after considering their questions carefully the Secretary was instructed as to the answers to be sent.

Dairy.
The Manager gave a report of the possibility of burglar alarms for the Dairy Offices and after brief consideration it was agreed that it be raised again tomorrow night at the Sub-committee.

Halesowen. A letter from the Secretary of Birmingham Society stated that they wanted to take over the production of milk for Halesowen when the merger took place. This meant that we would lose one sixth of our throughput.

Property.
Jenns' and the Fish Shop. An alternative "Swept Path" drawing was provided by Severnminster giving a 13 foot entrance, a 19 foot turntable and 1,440 square feet shop area. All these plans would now go to the Council and a further meeting would be called.

--over--
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 1st February, 1968.

Property.
Foley Park Old Bakery. It was noted that Messrs. Petrofina Limited were interested in the proposed development of a Petrol Filling station.

Grocery - Lickhill Rd.
It was reported that a burglary had taken place last Thursday when cigarettes and nylons to the value of £248 had been stolen. The police were investigating and were interested in the keys to the premises.

Decomlization.
The Secretary provided a brief statement of this problem in relation to Sweda Cash Machines when it was seen that replacements would cost £17,281. Alternatively it would cost £3,672 to convert the machines which would be mainly 14 years old by that time.

Reports.
Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Dairy.
The delegates gave a report upon their attendance at a Conference concerning the Industrial Training Act in relation to Bottling organisations and Mr. M. R. Jones gave a number of facts relating thereto. The delegates were thanked.

Central Premises.
Footwear. The President and the Secretary gave a report upon missing shoes from the Department, when in 11 days six empty boxes had been found on the shelves. The police had been called in and were investigating but it was thought that they realized the difficulty of solving the problem.

Discount Vouchers.
Resolved that the Discount Voucher Scheme be suspended as from the 17th February for six weeks.

President.

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Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 8th February, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. C. Walters was absent.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Property.
Foley Park Old Bakery. In discussion with the Social Club Secretary it appeared that his Committee were not keen on the Lanches Club proposal although the directors had intimated that the property might be sold. Measurements of the present club and the Wilton Avenue land had been provided and would be considered.

Committee Dinner.
Thanks were expressed to the organisers of the successful Committee Dinner.

Dairy.
In correspondence with Birmingham Society it appeared that the Chief Executive Officer would reconsider the question of taking over the 6,000 gallons we now supply to Halesowen Society when these two Societies amalgamate.
Decimalization. From information received it appeared that the Bugin Machines provided by the C.W.S. would be somewhat cheaper than Sweda's and this would be borne in mind.

Donation. A letter of thanks was received from the Mayor for the Tombola Prize for his Charity.

Dudley Society. The death of Sir John Moloney, O.B.E., J.P., a long serving member of Dudley Board of Management was reported and the President and Secretary intimated that they would attend the funeral. Resolved that a donation of £2. 2. Od be made to the British Empire Cancer Campaign in lieu of a floral tribute.

Co-operative Union Ltd. Resolved that a vote be recorded for the Burton on Trent nominee for the Special Vacancy in the Co-operative Meat Trade Association.

Labour Party. The Local Labour Party notified that the Party Gold Badge would be presented to Mr. W. Davis and Mr. J. Ferguson in honour of the work they have done over the years for the Party. This would take place in the King Charles Room on Saturday, February 17th and Messrs. E.W. Harvey and M.R. Jones together with the Secretary promised to attend.

Central Premises. Christmas Attraction. A statement was provided of the costs of the Christmas Attraction last year amounting to £489. This was a slight increase on last year and it was agreed that a further booking be made for next Christmas of a Submarine effect.

Corn and Seed. It was reported that the preparation of the concrete slab for the Corn and Seed Store was held up by the weather.

Hours and Wages. Brief details were given of the recommended proposals for salary review of Officials and Departmental Managers and a precis of other details was promised for next week.

Reports. Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Dairy. The Sub-committee Chairman gave a full report of the Dairy Sub-committee meeting which had dealt with the Montague case, the Rounds Supervisor, Burglary precautions and Foreign Bodies in bottles. The question of the Halesowen milk had also been considered.

Grocery. Resolved that a Sub-committee be called for the 16th February provisionally to deal with various matters.

It was suggested that Mr. D. I. John make a report of the departments progress and policies and various other matters were mentioned for discussion.

Dairy. The Secretary reported that our claim against C.I.S. for P. Montague's defalcations had now been agreed and would take into account wages and superannuation now held. This would mean that the C.I.S. would pay us £360.

Central Premises. Store Detectives. It was reported that a girl named Christine Mahoney aged 15 years had been caught stealing meat and tinned goods to the value of £1. 15. Od. The police have been informed.

Mortgage. In the absence of Mr. G. A. Phillips the Secretary reported that he required a Mortgage of £2,500 on a bungalow to be built at the Orchards, Habberley Lane and this was approved, although it was realised that it would not be needed until next September.

15th February, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 15th February, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. C. Walters was absent.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

The concrete slab at Bridge Street was practically completed and Marley Buildings would commence the erection on the 26th February.

The Grocery Sub-committee meeting for Friday next was confirmed and various matters were mentioned that should be discussed.

Store Detectives. It was reported that Christopher Webb aged 12 years had been apprehended for stealing some chocolate. The Secretary mentioned the problem of youths using the lift and a letter of apology had been received from the parents of one boy.

Resolved that a Birthday Cake be provided as usual.

A letter from the Secretary of Huneston Society gave details of his scheme for varying rates of share interest according to the size of shareholding. This was thoroughly discussed and the Secretary suggested that it be reconsidered in time for the Quarterly Meeting if an alteration is required.

Poley Park Old Bakery. It was noted that Messrs. Petrofina and Easo were interested in the proposed development of the Old Bakery as a Petrol Service Station.

Central Premises.

Mr. R. Hood sent a report on his views of the re-allocation of the departments in the Central Premises, which stated that he would like to take over the present furnishing department. After some discussion it was agreed that other Managers concerned be asked to make their reports and the matter would be considered again.

Hours and Wages.

N.U.C.O. A precis of the proposed new scale for the N.U.C.O. members had been sent to the members previously and the proposals were fully discussed. The Managers had met on Monday and sent a letter recommending acceptance of the new scales plus the present Merit Awards. The Secretary gave a long explanation and answered many questions, suggesting that the over-scale payments due to sales decreases should be deducted from the new proposed increase. After much more discussion it was resolved that the N.U.C.O. New Scale be supported and that the Society's merit awards be considered at a later date.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Grocery.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Churchman's for their hospitality last Tuesday and their invitation to the factory.

Footwear.

The police had not been able to progress any further in the case of the missing shoes, and it was reported that a pullover was missing on Wednesday last.

Co-operative Bank.

The Secretary reported that he was endeavouring to obtain the banking account of Wright's Travel Service for the Co-operative Bank.

Central Premises.

Snack Bar. Various complaints were made with regard to the untidiness and open food on the counter and the Secretary promised to investigate.

[Signature]

President.

22nd February, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 22nd February, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. C. Walters was absent.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Central Premises.

A second letter of apology was received from a youth who caused trouble in the lift.

Store Detectives. It was reported that Mrs. B. Reece of Broad Street had been apprehended with some bacon and ham in her possession together with three pieces of meat from other stores. The police had been informed.

Snack Bar. This area had now been tidied up and the Manageress was waiting for cake covers for her trays. Enquiries would be made concerning a tiered display case.

Investments.

The Birmingham Printers Balance Sheet was received.

Co-operative Union Ltd.

Resolved that the following Annual Subscriptions be paid -

Co-operative Union Ltd. - £532. 4. 4d.
Co-operative Party - £105. 7. 4d.
International Co-operative Alliance - £47. 5. 0d.

Co-operative Press Ltd.

It was noted that the magazines known as Agenda and Co-operative Official were being combined into one Co-operative Management and the purchase of nine copies monthly was approved.

Furnishing.

An accident to Mrs. Lacy of Shatterford who fell down some steps in the Furnishing department on Tuesday last was reported.

Grocery.

Resolved that Mr. D. I. John be allowed to take 18 days holiday altogether.

U.S.D.A.W. The difficulties of finding First Hands and Leading Assistants was noted and the Trade Union were pressing for appointments.

It was noted that Mr. McManus, Lickhill Road Branch Manager was leaving the service of the Society.

Publicity.

The proposed purchase of a Mason Sealey Ticket Printing Machine was raised again and the Managers views were given. Its use would need to be organised properly and it would cost £728.12.6d together with approximately £50 of materials. Resolved after discussion that the equipment be purchased.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Grocery.

The Chairman gave a report of the Sub-committee meeting dealing with the progress of planning Franche Road alterations and the internal reorganisation for Horsefair. Leakage reports had been given and the question of Retail Price Maintenance on Cigarettes again considered. The continuance of Discount Vouchers was recommended although it was realised that a decision would not be made until after the half year end.

The Chairman elaborated upon the C.W.S. Marketing Schemes and recommended that they be approved although it was seen that it would seriously reduce the department's net profit. Other commodities such as Robertson's Jams and Summer County Margarine would be included and it would be necessary that they be purchased. Resolved that the report be approved and adopted.

[Signature]

-over-
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 22nd February, 1968.

Mr. W. Davis.
The President reported upon the presentation made to Mr. W. Davis last Saturday in recognition and appreciation of his work for the town.

Stock-checking.
The Secretary asked for instructions regarding the forthcoming stockchecking duties and the Committee generally approved the same duties as undertaken last half-year with some minor variations.

Mr. E. Waldron.
Mr. E. W. Waldron, who was a member of the Disablement Advisory Committee for the area intimated that he did not wish to continue in this work owing to pressure of business. It was resolved that Mr. H. E. Preston be put forward as a nominee.

Debt.
The question of departmental debts was considered and the Secretary gave an explanation of procedures.

President

29th February, 1968.

Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 29th February, 1968.
The President occupied the Chair and Mr. C. Walters and Mr. I. R. Webb were absent ill.

Minutes.
Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Snack Bar.
Details were given of the tiered display case costing £30 but this was thought to be too dear.

Grocery.
U.S.D.A.W. A complaint from Mr. H. Webb, the U.S.D.A.W. Secretary was received concerning the appointment of First Assistants and Leading Assistants. The Secretary had taken this matter up with Mr. D. I. John who was endeavouring to make the necessary appointments. The second part of the letter dealt with the temperature in various shops and it was said that in a number of Grocery Branches the temperature did not reach the required minimum of 60.3°F. Additionally there was a "round robin" from the Ground Floor staff at the Central Premises in which they blamed the ill-fitting doors for the low temperature. The Secretary gave details of his actions in these matters and they were approved.

Stock-Checking.
Copies of the stockchecking duties list were provided and approved. Messrs. W. Davis and H. B. Preston promised to help Mr. Thompson with the Chemist Stock.

Mr. E. Waldron.
The Manager of the Labour Exchange had stated that the Disablement Committee nomination was in the hands of the Midland Section of the Co-operative Union. This Society's request had been passed on to Birmingham Head Office.

Industrial Sunday.
Resolved that Mr. E. W. Waldron represent the Society at the meeting to be held on the 5th March,
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 29th February, 1968.

Co-operative Union Ltd.
Resolved that the Nomination Papers of the various Trade Associations lie on the table and a similar decision was taken with regard to the C.W.S. Nomination Paper.

Fuel.
Resolved that Mr. A. Wall attend the Annual Conference together with Mr. W. Davis if possible.

Radio and Electrical.
Resolved that Mr. H. R. Jones and Mr. J. Minett attend the Annual Conference in April.

Grocery.
Details were given of the second programme in the C.W.S. Marketing Scheme.

Dairy.
A letter from Halesowen Society gave notice to terminate the supply of milk to them on the 5th April.

Finance.
A general discussion on the work of the Board Members in controlling or examining financial matters arose, and the Secretary suggested that a Finance Sub-committee ought to inspect payments although this was felt to be old fashioned. The discussion ranged around the many reports that are given in comparison to the few in other societies and generally the board felt that these reports were helpful and should continue.

Education.
Details were given of the Management Development Scheme organised for the second year by the Co-operative Union.

Property.
Foley Park Old Bakery - Social Club. It was felt that further discussions should take place with the Social Club delegation concerning the next steps in the removal of the Social Club from Foley Park and a meeting was provisionally arranged for next Thursday the 7th March at 6.30 p.m.

Nursery Land. The Secretary's decision in instituting action towards the sale of the 6.41 acres of land at Wolverley Road was confirmed.

Grocery
Foley Park: A crime prevention report was received from the police officer for Crime Prevention at Foley Park premises. This dealt in detail with suggested improvements and the Secretary gave details of his actions. These were confirmed. No action had been taken with regard to the Corn and Seed Warehouse and the Club premises as these were so soon to be vacated.

Reports.
Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Footwear.
It was reported that another pair of shoes were missing and the police had taken Mr. W. Colsey into their confidence to obtain his assistance.

The Secretary reported that Mrs. Lloyd was terminating her services after 25 years and it was agreed that a cheque for £10.10.0d be sent to her together with a letter of thanks.

Grocery.
Consideration was given to Mr. D. I. John's written report on his Department and appreciation was expressed although it was resolved to leave it to the Sub-committee to consider in more detail.

President.

7th March, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 7th March, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. C. Walters was absent.

Minutes.
Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Central Premises.
The Secretary gave a report upon the breakdown of one oil fired boiler and the steps taken to get it repaired.

Mr. E. Waldron.
A letter from the Ministry of Labour at Birmingham noted our interest in the appointment of a delegate to the Disablement Advisory Committee.

Fuel.
Mr. W. Davis confirmed that he would be able to attend the Fuel Conference at Blackpool.

Footwear.
A letter of thanks was received from Mrs. J. Lloyd for the £10.10. 0. cheque.

Investments.
Resolved that votes be recorded for the three retiring members in the Co-operative Permanent Building Society election.

Co-operative Union Ltd.
Resolved that Messrs. H. R. Jones, E. Thompson and H. B. Preston attend the Annual Meeting of the Midland Section on the 6th April next.

Mortgage.
Resolved that subject to a further payment of £5 the Deed of Release be signed and sealed in the case of Mr. D. Colley of 79 Trimpley Drive, Kidderminster.

Blackwall St. Chemists.
Difficulties were reported in the heating system at Blackwall Street but the C.W.S. now appeared to have put them right.

Birchen Coppice.
The Secretary reported that a decrease of £25 per annum in the Rent of Birchen Coppice Shop had now been verbally agreed with the Corporation but if the Lease was not provided by the 21st March it might be necessary to serve a Summons on the Council to protect our position. This was approved.

Property.
The Secretary gave a long report upon a business in Sutton Road owned by Mr. J. A. Thomas known as Foodorama which included a very good Grocery Shop, the house and a Slaughterhouse. Mr. Cookson and he had inspected it but made no recommendation. This was a project that needed considerable thought as the "asking price" was £46,000. After long discussion it was agreed that Mr. D. I. John inspect the premises as soon as may be arranged and further consideration would be given.

Finance.
The Secretary read a text of an item in the Co-operative Gazette dealing with Societies in Difficulties. The changed circumstances involved -
(1) The new Regional Plan of co-operative reconstruction.
(2) The C.W.S. policy decision to discontinue grants-in-aid on transfers of engagements.
(3) The weak and deteriorating position of some retail societies.

They pressed the point of view for intensive self-examination and if trade profits were in doubt seek an immediate transfer to a stronger unit. If this were not possible then early dissolution is the honest and responsible course to follow.

The Board discussed this serious statement in great detail and although they believe it was not applicable to Kidderminster they realised that difficulties of neighbouring societies might affect us.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 7th March, 1968.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

A discussion on Dairy leakage resolved in a request for a report from the Manager.

Property.

Foley Park Old Bakery - Social Club. The President and Secretary gave reports upon the meeting with the Social Club committee on Tuesday last and prior to this meeting. The Social Club Committee felt that they had a moral right to assistance and it had been suggested that the Society should make them a gift of either £1,000 or £1,500. In addition they would require to borrow £1,500 they hoped at a low rate of interest. Various other methods of financing the new Club Room had been considered and the Secretary suggested that the better way would be for the Society to finance the operation and charge the Club an economic rent. Resolved that this suggestion be put to the Club Committee and if they agreed, Planning Permission be sought.

Industrial Sunday.

Mr. E. W. Waldron was thanked for his report of the meeting and intimated that handbills would be provided for the shops.

Publicity and Display.

Mr. W. Davis questioned the method and aims of publicity and Mr. I. R. Webb supported him and referred to the meeting held in January 1967, when he said managers were to co-operate in publicity for six months so that the Board might judge the effect of such co-operation. Mr. Webb contended that the scheme had not got off the ground and thought that the Dry Goods Sub-committee should have taken further action. Mr. E. Thompson warmly contended that this was the Secretary's fault but the Secretary pointed out that the Minute of February 2nd had not so provided. The result of the discussion was somewhat inconclusive although it was generally felt that some further action should be taken.

President.

14th March, 1968.
Minutes.
Central Premises.
Birchen Coppice.
Property.
Property.
Publicity and Display.
Donations.
Mr. E. Waldron.
Education.
Co-operative Party.
Donations.
C.W.S. Marketing.

Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 14th March, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. C. Walters was absent.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

It was noted that the boilers were now working satisfactorily.

It was reported that the Corporation had notified the Society of the £25 reduction in Rent, therefore no summons would be issued. This was approved.

Sutton Road. The Grocery Manager provided a written report upon his inspection of the Sutton Road Grocery Business saying that the shop and fittings were good but made no recommendation partly because of price. He suggested a shop on the Burlich Estate would be a better proposition. Resolved that no further action be taken.

Foley Park Old Bakery - Social Club.

The Secretary had received verbal acceptance of our offer to build a new Social Club subject to Planning Permission and charging an economic rent. Resolved that the matter proceed through the Architects and Planning Permission be applied for.

A further discussion took place regarding publicity and members referred to a report sent by the Secretary to all managers and Board Members in February 1967. After more discussion the only conclusion reached was that Publicity and Display appear to be a matter for management.

Resolved that a donation in kind be made to the Worcester Ambulance Service Social Club.

A letter from the Co-operative Union asked for the submission of a name recommended as a replacement for Mr. E. W. Waldron on the Disablement Advisory Committee. Resolved that Mr. H. B. Preston's name be put forward.

Resolved that Mr. I. R. Webb and Alderman H. G. Parker be appointed to attend the Directors Seminar on May 18th/19th at Derby.

The Coach to Brighton was confirmed for the Co-operative Party Annual Conference at £3.14. Od per head.

Resolved that Mr. I. R. Webb represent the Society at the Annual Meeting of the Kidderminster League of Hospital Friends.

C. A. H. Jones, Corn and Seed, expressed in a letter his doubts regarding the C.W.S. Marketing Scheme for Kenmoreat in that it would effect his gross profit. It was agreed however that he be requested to take stock at the beginning and end of the period so that the sales are known.

A report from Mr. D. I. John gave details of a robbery by Mr. J. O'Driscoll, a well known local drunk, who was seen to take three cartons of tinned food from the Grocery Warehouse.

\[signature\]

-over-
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 14th March 1968.

Various matters were dealt with including the National Minutes. The new Wages During Sickness Agreement had been ratified and was operative from the 1st January 1968.

The Pharmacy and Optical Workers Agreement was to be improved and this related only to one employee whose wage would increase from £11.16. 6d to £13. Resolved that this be supported.

There was a National Application for an increase of 20/- per week for all adult men and women together with proportionate increases for juniors and the Secretary promised a precis of this application.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

The Manager reported that a further case of Glass in Bottle was being considered by Seisdon Rural District Council. Both the Secretary and the Manager had written to the Chief Public Health Inspector giving details of the present difficulties and expressing regret.

All members gave their reports of the stockchecking duties and a number of points were mentioned, the major of which was the lack of certain cigarettes in the Tobacco Kiosk. The Secretary had already seen Mr. John and promised further action in this matter.

Cleaners. The Secretary stated that he had seen Mrs. Clark, a cleaner, carrying a skirt across the middle of the showroom and later realised that no staff were present. He had strongly reprimanded the employee and it was agreed that this action was sufficient.

Store Detectives. It was reported that a Mrs. Brookshaw of 36 Comberton Avenue had been apprehended for the second time and on this occasion she had been reported to the police. Also Mrs. J. Jones of 28 East Street had been found with some items which she had not paid for. This instance too had been reported to the police.

E. W. Harvey
President

21st March, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 21st March 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. C. Walters was absent. It was reported that he was improving in health.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Property.

Sutton Road. A letter from Mr. S. K. Cattell regretted that we were not prepared to purchase the Sutton Road grocery business and the Board confirmed their previous decision.

Hours and Wages.

A precis on the National Claim for 20/- was provided and it was agreed that it be considered next week.

Central Premises.

Store Detectives. It was reported that the case of Mrs. M. Jones, 28 East Street, reported last week was not true, the woman who had been apprehended gave a false share number and then ran away.

Women's Guild.

Thanks were received for the Birthday Cake recently given.

C.W.S.

Dividend. Notification was received that the dividend for the second half of 1967 would be 1d in the £ plus a further 1d on C.W.S. productions.

Shareholders Meetings. A statement on the proposed future methods of holding C.W.S. Shareholders Meetings was received and it was agreed that these be studied and a decision made next week.

Voting. Resolved that votes be recorded as follows:

Northern Section ... ... ... Mr. J. B. Lamb.
North-Eastern Section ... ... Mr. K. Booth.
North-Western and Irish Section ... Mr. W. Frost,
and Mr. S. Stott.
Midland Section ... ... ... Mr. L. C. Fox
and Mr. D. H. Reynolds.
South-Western and Western Section ... Mr. P. E. Turvey.
Southern Section ... ... ... Mr. T. H. J. Maggs
and Mr. A. Waddington.
Metropolitan Section ... ... ... Mr. H. J. Clayden.

Dividend Stamp Scheme. A letter from the C.W.S. stated that they were going to set up a Dividend Stamp Scheme and further details would soon be available.

Co-operative Party.

An invitation from the Worcester Co-operative Party to a Conference on the 3rd April received no support.

Grocery - Lister Road.

The Valuation Officer proposed to increase the rateable value by £21 and Messrs. Cattell and Young were investigating with a view to opposing.

Corn and Seed.

Resolved that the first Certificate for the work by Messrs. Lacy Brothers at the Corn and Seed shop, in the sum of £500, be paid.

Hours and Wages.

It was noted that there was no National Agreement for Co-operative Motor Mechanics and the National Wages Board asked for our views as to whether a National Agreement should be negotiated. Resolved that such negotiations proceed.

...over...
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 21st March 1968.

Superannuation.

With regard to the agreed Mortgage on the Central Premises for the purpose of securing the Superannuation Fund, the Secretary suggested that a Superannuation Committee be called in the near future to consider the Solicitors advice that the Trustees should be changed so that no members of the Board become Trustees. If this were approved by the Superannuation Committee it would then need to be approved by the Superannuation members. During an interesting discussion on the proposals it was felt that a copy of the Mortgage Deed should be obtained before the alteration in the Trustees be considered. It was resolved therefore to defer the consideration of the alterations of Trustees until a copy of the Mortgage Deed is obtained.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Dairy.

It was agreed that the Dairy Leakage Report which Mr. Davis commended, be considered next week.

Central Premises.

Restaurant. The Secretary stated that he had reported to the police regarding minor disturbances in the Restaurant on Saturday afternoons. This was caused by youths ganging together and stink bombs had been dropped. It was agreed that we await the advice of the Chief Superintendent.

Balance Sheet.

The Secretary gave a preliminary report upon the Balance Sheet stating that subject to audit he was pleased to report that a 10d dividend could be paid easily. In addition he recommended that the £9,353 capital profit be allocated to the renewal of motor vehicles as to £4,000 last half-year and £5,000 next half-year. All the usual appropriations should be paid amounting to £7,400 which left a further £5,000 approximately which he recommended should be placed to the Dividend Equalisation Fund and £50 to the Political Purposes Fund.

The implications of the recent Budget were borne in mind such as the increase in Selective Employment Tax, Purchase Tax, Petrol and Motor Licences and it was unanimously agreed that the disposals suggested be approved including the 10d dividend. It was realised that these reservations would cost approximately £11,000 in Corporation Tax and £3,000 in Capital Gains Tax but the Board had no hesitation in approving and thanked the Secretary for his report.

The Secretary praised the Managers for their successful efforts and stated that most departments showed a slightly improved gross profit. Resolved that sincere thanks be expressed to the Managers and anyone else concerned, and special thanks were expressed to the Secretary.

28th March 1968.

President.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 28th March, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Alderman H. Parker and Mr. C. Walters were absent.

Minutes.
Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Hours and Wages.
Consideration was given to the National Claim for 20/- increase and it seemed generally to be agreed that there was a case for male shop assistants and this was approved together with a modest rise for females and proportionate amounts for juniors. It was felt that negotiations might commence at 10/- for males and 7/6d for females. Although the earning capacities on various groups of employees were considered, no recommendation was made for any variation.

C.W.S.
Resolved that the delegates at the next C.W.S. meeting support the proposed alterations to Shareholders meetings and delegates thereto.

Superannuation.
The Secretary read the Draft Mortgage Deed to secure the Superannuation Fund by way of a mortgage on the Central Premises and a long discussion centred around the appointment of Trustees and the loss of control by the Board. It was thought that the President and the Secretary and Executive Officer should be Trustees but this was not recommended by the Solicitors. The Secretary pointed out the risks of amalgamation and pressed for the Deed to be approved and after considerable discussion it was approved unanimously.

Dairy.
The Leakage Report provided by the Manager was considered and many comments upon its excellence were made.

Restaurant.
The police promised to interview the youth who dropped the stink bomb that is if his name and address was correct.

Balance Sheet.
The Secretary reported that the Auditor had practically completed the Balance Sheet and the 10d dividend could be paid with safety.

Donation.
Resolved that a gift of bread rolls to the value of 5/- 5. Od be made to Christian Aid Week.

Grocery.
The Secretary reported that the C.W.S. Store Traffic Promotion No. 1 had commenced on the 11th March but the Nescafe had not been received until the 25th March.

Hours and Wages.
A National Agreement was recommended for Electricians and this would provide a £1 increase for skilled electricians. After brief consideration this was approved.

Mortgage.
Resolved that the first payment of the Mortgage required by Mr. C.A. Phillips be made in the sum of £349.10.0d.

Chemists.
The Secretary reported that a break-in had occurred at the Chemist Warehouse when £18 cigarettes had been missed and wines and spirits considerably disturbed but not taken.

Grocery - Areley Kings.
A burglary had also occurred again at Areley Kings when cigarettes and tobacco amounting to £163.7.1d and Milk tokens to the value of £238.18.11d were taken. Entry had been made via the roof.

- over -
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 28th March 1968.

Furnishing.
Mr. J. Minst promised to display furniture outside the Restaurant in the near future.

Property.
Horsefair Flats. Bathrooms for these flats had now been approved by the Local Authority after ten months.

Nursery Land.
The Agents were to apply for Outline Planning Permission for this 6½ acres and would be prepared to go to Appeal if necessary.

Dividend.
Resolved that a Dividend Draft for £5,200 be signed.

Reports.
Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Easter Holidays.
Resolved that the shops be closed on Monday and Tuesday as last year.

Footwear.
The Secretary reported that two more pairs of shoes had been stolen and the police had been informed.

Grocery.
Brief details were given of the grocery leakage results which had considerably improved.

Committee's Report.
Copies of the suggested Management Committee's Report to the members were provided read and approved.

President

4th April, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 4th April, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. C. Walters was absent.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Superannuation.

A Committee Meeting was arranged for Monday, 22nd April at 6.45 p.m., before the Quarterly Meeting.

Restaurant.

The police reported that the name and address given by the youth who dropped the stink bomb was false and they suggested on future occasions making immediate contact with the police station.

Grocery.

The Secretary reminded the Board of the gifts made to good Grocery Branch Managers and asked if thought could be given to the list for this half-year.

B’ham Dist. Council.

Resolved that the Annual Subscription of £15 be now paid.

Co-operative Party.

Details were given to the delegates of the transport arrangements for the Conference at Brighton, and Mr. H. B. Preston took charge of the Voting Card.

Investments.

Resolved that votes be recorded for the three retiring members in the Co-operative Cleaners election.

It was noted that the rate of interest on the Special Deposit Account of the C.W.S. had been reduced to 52% following the Bank Rate decrease.

C.W.S. Meeting.

Resolved that Messrs. F. H. Mills and M. R. Jones attend the Bristol Balance Sheet meeting and half-yearly meeting.

Furnishing.

Mr. J. Minett wrote asking for permission to furnish three Show Houses at a cost of approximately £1,750. This matter was fully discussed but it was finally resolved that the Dry Goods Sub-committee deal with it next Thursday at 6.30 p.m.

Dairy.

A letter from the Worcestershire County Education Department said that glass had been found in custard at Stourport County Primary School and suggested that it was in the milk. The Secretary strongly refuted this allegation and was now awaiting a reply from the Chief Public Health Inspector. The action taken was agreed.

C.W.S. Emblem.

It was resolved in future all vehicles, shop fronts and advertising use the new C.W.S. colour and emblem.

It was felt that a half page advertisement in the Kidderminster Shuttle should give details of the financial results.

Social Club.

The local Authority had advised the Architects that we must advertise the proposal to put a Social Club on Wilton Avenue land in the local press and this had been done.

Dairy.

Resolved that the Glass Screen for the Washer be extended by 7 feet.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Co-operative Party.

Messrs. M. R. Jones and B. Thompson were thanked for their report of the recent Conference on the Co-operative Party Conference Agenda.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 4th April, 1968.

Central Premises.

Store Detectives. It was reported that Mrs. L. Darlington of Wolverley had been found with a Pork Chop in her possession not paid for. Although the matter had been reported to the police Mrs. Darlington had been to see the Secretary to apologise for her lapse of memory and the Secretary was in some doubt as to her intentions. It was agreed that the Superintendent be informed of this doubt.

Coal.

It was reported that Mr. H. Crumpton, Coal Department employee had been advised to find a lighter job & the Secretary wondered whether he would be suitable for a caretaker's position. He promised to see the man but the view was expressed that such a position should be filled by a man in good health.

Departmental Accounts.

The Secretary provided full reports of the departmental accounts and supplemented it with a verbal report of the Central Chemist section where a small loss was shown. It appeared likely that this was due to a massive increase in drug stocks but no-one could tell how much this was. It was generally thought that stocks should be taken of the drugs by a professional organisation, but further consideration would be given next week.

Grocery.

It was reported by a member that at the Central Grocery Heinz Beans had been sold during the C.W.S. Promotion period at a higher price than was indicated by the Promotion Scheme. The Secretary promised to investigate.

[Signature]
President.

11th April, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 11th April 1963.

The President occupied the Chair and Messrs. J.R. Webb and W.B. Preston were absent on Society business and Mr. C. Walters was still sick.

Mr. J. Ferguson, M.B.E., M.J.P.

The Secretary had previously informed the Board of the death of Mr. J. Ferguson, M.B.E., M.J.P., former Board Member and President. A number of members had attended the funeral and the Committee stood in silence and respect. Resolved that a donation of £5 5. Od be made to the Cancer Research in lieu of floral tributes.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Superannuation.

Mr. K.R. Jones expressed apologies for non-attendance at the Quarterly Meeting and the Superannuation Meeting as he would be away on Society business.

Dairy.

The Secretary read a long letter from the Worcester County Education Department regarding alleged glass in milk and custard. They had returned the pieces of glass which he recommended should be sent to the C.W.S. Glass Works to see if they could analyse them. During discussion it was asked if the milk could be filtered before it entered the churns and every possible precaution should be taken.

Coal.

Mr. H. Crumpton had been interviewed but did not seem to want an indoor job. He might be accommodated washing vehicles part-time.

Grocery.

The Secretary reported that the Heinz Beans marked at 1/4d had not been marked down because the check-out staff would know they were to be sold at 1/-. After a long discussion when various points were considered it was felt that all articles on Special Offer should be so marked.

C.W.S.

Information was received that the C.W.S. had set up Co-operative City Investments Limited to assist Societies in their management of capital.

The Annual Report of the Trade Auditor was received.

Co-operative Union Ltd.

The first instalment of a Manual on Co-operative Management was received as a Trade Advisory Bulletin and the Secretary recommended it as well worth study.

Reserves.

A graph showing the progress of Reserves since 1952 was provided and it was seen that they had increased from £56,000 to £161,000 and the Secretary was commended.

Balance Sheet.

Proof copies were received, briefly considered and approved.

C.W.S.

A long letter from the C.W.S. gave details of their present Trade Terms and finally said that commencing in July a further two weeks credit would be given on non-food purchases.

Publicity.

The Secretary recommended that to commence use of the Co-operative Emblem, new signs should be purchased for the Oxford Street and Worcester Street frontages. These would cost approximately £120 and would replace the red Co-operative signs. This was approved.

C.W.S.

Store Traffic. A letter of apology was received from the C.W.S. for the fact that insufficient Nescafe had been provided in the first promotion.

-Over-
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 11th April, 1968.

C.W.S.
Furniture. It was pleasing to note that the C.W.S. were able to give a 12½% price reduction on furniture and bedding.

Dairy.
A long report from the Crime Prevention Officer gave suggestions for security at the Dairy and the Secretary dealt with all the points giving details of those that had been approved and giving reasons for non-approval of others. Further enquiries would be made regarding the burglar alarm system and a report provided later.

Petrol Station.
Brief details were provided of proposals by six different Petrol Companies with regard to their terms for the development of a proposed Petrol Station at Foley Park. The Co-operative Union advice had been sought and the Committee were asked to study the details now provided.

Reports.
Resolved that the weekly reports were approved.

Furnishing.
The Chairman gave a report of the earlier Dry Goods Sub-committee when Mr. J. Minett had attended and requested finance for two Show Houses which he estimated would cost £1,000. The Sub-committee had considered the various factors and now recommended that this project be undertaken. There was some thought that the Wimpey House salesman might help in the sale of furniture on commission and this would be investigated. Resolved that the report be approved and adopted.

Co-operative Union Ltd.
The delegates, Messrs. M. R. Jones and B. Thompson were thanked for their interesting report of the Midland Section Annual Conference.

Committee.
Resolved that no meeting be held next week unless urgently required.

Dairy.
Resolved that a sub-committee be called for Friday, 26th April at 6.30 p.m. to consider the Managers report upon expansion needs.

Departmental Accounts.
The Secretary then went through in detail the Departmental Accounts which had previously been supplied. Various questions were asked and in particular it was felt that the Corn and Seed Department should be investigated by the Secretary and the Sub-committee. The Chemist Central Shop had made a small loss but this was thought due to large purchases of drugs but it was impossible to say what value because there was no stock to begin figure. The question of professional stockcheckers for the drugs was still under consideration.

........................
President.

25th April, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 25th April, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. W.R. Jones was absent on Society business and Mr. C. Walters was sick.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Dairy.

An analyst's report was received from the Glass Works of the particles of glass alleged to be found in custard. This stated that the particle was plate or sheet glass. Copies of the reports had been sent to the County Council.

Petrol Station.

Details of the Jet Petrol Company proposals were provided and it was agreed that the whole matter be considered on Monday, 29th April at 7 p.m.

Secretary.

The Secretary requested a fortnight's holiday commencing the 11th May and this was approved.

Corn and Seed.

Resolved that a Sub-committee be called for Friday at 8 p.m., after the Dairy Sub-committee.

Chemist.

The professional stockcheckers, Messrs. Orridges, would charge approximately £100 to do this job and this was approved.

C.W.S.

Chief Executive Officer. Official notification was received from the C.W.S. of the death of Mr. P.M. Thomas and his wife in an air crash in South Africa on Saturday, 20th April.

The Annual Report and Balance Sheet was received and would be discussed next week.

The voting results for the Directors was received and it was seen that all sitting members were re-elected.

U.S.D.A.W.

An invitation was received to a presentation of long service awards to U.S.D.A.W. members at the Social Club on the 14th May. A number of members and their wives expressed a willingness to attend.

Hours and Wages.

It was noted that the Electricians proposed National Agreement had been approved by the movement but was now being considered by the Ministry of Labour.

The new rates for Dispensing Assistants had been approved and would be operative from the 1st April.

Dairy.

It was reported that in future a charge would be made by the Severn River Authority for abstracting water. It was estimated that the charge would be 1d per 1,000 gallons.

Corn and Seed.

Steel shelving had been ordered for the Corn and Seed new building and it was estimated to cost £214.10. Od. Resolved that this be approved.

Social Club.

A meeting had been held with the local Authority with regard to the proposed Wilton Avenue building and they required space for 40 cars. The Architect would prepare another plan.

Investment Grants.

The Secretary reported that he had prepared a claim for Investment grants for Dairy machinery which, if approved, might amount to £2,700.

...over...
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 25th April, 1968.

Confectionery. The Grocery Manager had discussed the Concession Site with the C.W.S. Bakery Manager who wanted to be released from the arrangement. Resolved that this be approved.

The Bakery Manager also suggested a price cut of 4d on wrapped and sliced bread, for which he offered a 30% discount. Resolved after some discussion that this be operated for a trial period of four weeks.

Decimalisation. Investigation had been made into the cost of converting all Cash Machines in the shops and this would be £4025. Sweda however would supply 31 new machines for £5,026 or Hugin for £4,989. The Secretary had given considerable thought to this and recommended that in view of the age of the present machines, they be replaced by Hugin machines. This was approved.

Reports. Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Co-operative Party.

Mr. J.R. Webb and Mr. H.B. Preston were thanked for their interesting report of the Co-operative Party Annual Conference.

Central Premises.

Store Detectives. Mrs. A. Jones of 24 Lion Street had been found with a packet of peas unpaid for, & Mr. Styles, 41 Adam Street with meat value 12/10d. Both cases had been reported to the police.

Grocery.

It was reported that a man named Williams had been caught by the police and he had made a statement saying that he broke into Areley Kings Branch and Foley Park Branch of recent weeks. No goods had been recovered other than 1,000 milk tokens.

Managers Salaries.

The Secretary reported that Mr. F. Hunt was entitled to an increase of £41 based on sales and this was approved. Three decreases were shown by the Sales scales - Grocery, £23, Corn and Seed, £30 and Chemist, £26 and it was agreed that these decreases be waived as had been done in previous half years.

Men's Wear.

The Secretary reported that Mr. R. Hood had allowed his Assistant Mr. A. Remmie to book his holidays from the 10th to 22nd June and Mr. Hood himself now wanted to be away from the 17th to the 30th June. This would mean they were both away for one week and the Secretary felt that this was not reasonable although he had allowed it on this occasion. The Board agreed that it was unreasonable and it would not be allowed in future.

2nd May, 1968.

[Signature]
President.
Committee Meeting held on Monday, 29th April, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and all members were present except Mr. C. Walters.

The meeting was called to consider the various proposals put forward by seven Petrol Companies regarding the possibilities and profits available upon the development of the old Bakery as a Petrol Service Station. The Secretary in a lengthy report elaborated upon the written details previously supplied and spoke of the visit by Co-operative Union Trade Development Officers, dealing with this project.

They would be sending a written report in a week or two and would meet the Board if required.

Mr. G. A. Phillips gave his views saying the project must not be for petrol only, but accessories, car sales and car wash might double the profit on petrol.

Many interesting questions were asked and an informative discussion took place, the Secretary emphasising that all information was not yet in. It was clearly seen that there were snags in accepting financial aid from Petrol Companies and indeed, the Co-operative Union advised against it if we could finance it ourselves.

Finally it was resolved as a preliminary step that if the project goes forward we should finance it ourselves although it was realised that a competitive purchase price by any petrol company would assist in estimating the relative merits of sale or development.

2nd May, 1968.

[Signature]

President.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 2nd May, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. C. Walters was absent. The Secretary had visited him and unfortunately he had suffered another slight heart attack and was back in bed.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 25th April and of the Special meeting held on the 29th April, be confirmed and signed.

Dairy.

A reply from the Worcester County Council said that they had carefully noted our reports and they thought no useful purpose could be served by continuing the enquiry.

The Secretary reported that the new Bottle Washer was in transit.

C.W.S.

A letter from the Chairman of the C.W.S. referred to the death of Mr. P. M. Thomas and stated that a firm of Consultants would be considering the appointment of his successor.

Petrol Service Station.

A letter from Messrs. Petrofina Limited increased their offer of assistance by way of Solus Rebate from 1½d to 2d and by way of Petrol Tank installation from £646 to £1,500. The offer was noted.

Following the visit of the Co-operative Union Development Officers they had now suggested setting back the Show Room and extending it so that the Local Authority could be approached to allow cars to be displayed in front of the building. Resolved that this suggestion be put to Mr. Dale, Building Inspector.

C.I.S.

The delegates were instructed to support the C.W.S. recommendation that the firm of Thomas Mcintosh be appointed Auditors and that their fees be fixed by the C.W.S. Other Amendments according to the business paper would be dealt with by Referendum following the meeting.

C.I.S.

The Annual Report was received and was seen to be exceptionally good. The dividend received was £360.11.5d.

Co-operative Union Ltd.

Resolved that votes be recorded for the following candidates in the Co-operative Union elections.

Fuel Trade Association - Mr. J. W. S. Tristram of Peterborough.
Milk Trade Association - Mr. W. W. Ritchie of Birmingham.
Grocery Trade Association - Mr. A. W. Grace of Birmingham.
Meat Trade Association - Mr. S. Rigby of Bolton.
Bakery Trade Association - Mr. T. L. Bowers of Derby.
Congress Standing Orders - Mr. C. W. Shepherd of Burton-on-Trent.
Central Executive - Mr. K. A. Tailby of Birmingham.
Midland Sectional Board - Mr. J. B. W. Scattergood of Ilkeston.

Co-operative Press Ltd.

Resolved that votes be recorded for Mr. C. Hamnett and Mrs. D. S. Smithfield in the Annual Election.

Industrial Sunday.

Resolved that a grant of £5. 0. Od be made towards the expenses of the Industrial Sunday.

Co-operative Union Ltd.

Highley Society. Correspondence with Mr. S. Martin intimated that he had persuaded Highley Society to approach this Society for exploratory talks towards the transfer of engagements. Their January Balance Sheet had not been satisfactory and the March period was thought to be worse. It was generally felt that a sympathetic view should be taken and after considerable discussion it was agreed that we meet them at 2 p.m. onwards on the 8th May, 1968. Resolved that the President and Messrs. E. W. Waldron, W. Davis, B. Thompson and H. B. Preston be delegated.
continued -

Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 2nd May, 1968.

Credit Trading.

The Secretary reported that the District Manager of the Provident Clothing Company had approached him to suggest that we should accept Provident Club Vouchers for durable goods in our shops. This was seen to be a thorny problem but the Secretary felt that it might result in increased trade and should not affect the position of our own Mutuality Club. Various views were put forward and the matter was thoroughly discussed. On the recommendation of the Secretary it was agreed that the views of the departmental managers concerned be obtained but it was realised that eventually the Mutuality Collectors would need to be put into the picture.

Dairy.

Security. A quotation from Messrs. Chubb Locks Limited for various padlocks and window locks at the Dairy, amounting to £59.12. 9d. was received and this was approved.

Glass in Bottle. A letter from the Seisdon Rural District Council intimated that they would not institute legal proceedings in the case of the broken glass in the bottle of milk and they had been thanked.

Property.

Prospect Lane. A letter from Mr. S. K. Cattell stated that little progress had been made in arriving at a figure for compensation of Prospect Lane yard although he was proceeding with the matter.

Office Systems.

In consideration of the Office Systems the Secretary felt that we should soon be considering computerisation on other sections. Balesowen Society had two machines for sale which were seven months old and cost £2,743. We could purchase them for £1,400 and he so recommended. Resolved that this be approved.

Hours and Wages.

The recommended settlement of the U.S.D.A.W. claim amounted to 10/- for males and 9/- for females together with proportionate sums for juniors. This had been reported to the Ministry of Labour and after discussion it was resolved that this increase be accepted if approved by the Ministry. The half-yearly cost would be £3,380 or a 3d dividend.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Dairy.

The Chairman gave a report of the Sub-committee meeting stating that the Manager wished to extend the retail rounds and it was necessary to purchase three more dairy vehicles at £1,250 each approximately. It was recommended too that two more vehicles be ordered for September delivery.

The question of the new Bottle Conveyor had also been considered, the C.W.S. price of £550 being the lowest was recommended. Resolved that the report be approved and adopted.

Hours and Wages.

On the recommendation of the Secretary it was agreed that a Merit Award of £150 per annum be made to Mr. H. Gallagher, Accountant.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 2nd May, 1968.

Branch Managers. The Secretary gave details of the various increases and decreases on the Branch Managers' wages and suggested that anything below 5/- should not be operated. The difficulties of this procedure were seen and it was agreed eventually that all increases and decreases according to scale, be operated.

Merit Awards. Resolved that a Merit Award of £25 each be made to Mr. L. Jones, Mr. J. Watkins and Mr. H. Farmer together with £15 to Mr. A. Andrews and £20 to Mr. P. Shuker, who had done well in their net profits.

Horticulture. Mr. M. R. Jones gave a brief report of the recent Horticultural Spring Show.

Coal Conference. Mr. W. Davis stated that he could not attend the Coal Conference and neither could Alderman H. G. Parker. Mr. G. A. Phillips, the next on the rota would let the Board know next week.

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President.

9th May, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 9th May, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. C. Walters was absent.

Minutes.
Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Apology.
Mr. H. B. Preston apologised for non-attendance at last Wednesdays meeting.

C.W.S.
Details were received of the Funeral arrangements and the Memorial Service to the late Mr. Phillip Thomas.

Petrol Station.
A further offer had been received from Jet Petroleum which did not seem to be of much interest.

Social Club.
It was understood confidentially that Planning Permission had not been granted but it was felt that a further application should be made.

Credit Trading.
The Secretary reported upon his meeting with the Dry Goods Managers who on the whole were in favour of taking Provident Vouchers. There was some thought that dividend should not be paid but they eventually agreed that it should. From figures projected on various departments who might have taken £500 of Provident vouchers, it appeared that there would be slight improvement in the net profit. It was agreed that the Secretary discuss the matter with the Collectors and report back.

Office Systems.
It was reported that the two Accounting Machines would be purchased from Birmingham Society.

Grocery.
A letter of thanks was received from Mr. H. Farmer for the £25 cheque.

Coal.
Mr. G. A. Phillips being unable to attend it was resolved that Mr. H. B. Preston attend the Coal Conference on the 20th May.

Investments.
The Co-operative Cleaners Report and Balance Sheet was seen to be considerably better this year.

Butchers Pool.
It was noted that Messrs. S. Simmonds Limited business at Mill Street was closing down as it was uneconomical and they were withdrawing from the Butchers Pool Organisation.

Dairy.
A quotation was received from Burgot Alarms for £308 for installation together with a rent of £11. 5. Od per quarter to secure the Dairy Offices. Questions were asked with regard to the insurance premiums and eventually it was resolved that no action be taken.

Reports.
Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Dairy.
It was reported that the Bottle Washer had been installed and was working well. The Manager expressed congratulations and thanks to the electrician Mr. J. B. Gilbert. It was resolved that members of the Board should visit the Dairy on Saturday 17th May at 11.0 a.m.

Furnishing.
Mr. M. R. Jones was thanked for his report of the Trade Visit.

C.W.S.
Mr. F. H. Hills gave an interesting report supplemented by Mr. M. R. Jones of their delegation to the C.W.S. half-yearly meeting and Conference.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 9th May, 1968.

Co-operative Union Limited. Highley Society. The Secretary provided a written report of yesterday's meeting with Highley Society when the whole question of the possibility of transfer of engagements had been considered. Mr. S. Martin the Sectional Secretary had been present and had been helpful in advice. Many facets of this transfer were considered and discussed such as their cut price policy, 6d dividend, retention of goodwill, share interest and stock. The Tax position was also considered and the question of staff and expenses were gone into very thoroughly. It was seen that there might be a major problem in the stock condition and a less serious one with the staff, but the Secretary felt that both problems could be surmounted. Eventually after considerable thought and expressions of views it was resolved that in the interest of the movement this Society came to the conclusion that there was a lot to be said for accepting the transfer of engagements from Highley Society subject to a further consideration of staff and the stock position.

Bank.

Resolved that Miss B. E. Horton sign the cheques for two weeks whilst the Secretary was on holiday.

Central Promises.

Store Detectives. It was reported that Mrs. D. Burgess of 7 Pershore Road, had been caught with goods not paid for and it was found that she had goods from two other stores.

Dairy.

The Secretary reported that a Mr. C. Davies had been engaged by the Dairy Manager and on the Secretary's advice had immediately been discharged. This was because three years ago Davies had taken possession of the Bewdley flat before being so authorised and had lived there for four months without paying rent. They were a family with six children and the Secretary asked if leniency could be allowed. The Board however left it to the officials to decide.

President.

16th May, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 16th May, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and welcomed Mr. C. Walters back after his long illness.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Co-operative Union Ltd. Highley Society. A letter was received from the Secretary of Highley Society saying that their Board had recorded the following Resolution -

"Providing the terms are acceptable to this Committee we recommend to the members a transfer to the Kidderminster Society".

A further meeting with Highley Society would be held when the Secretary returned from holiday.

Dairy.

It was noted that Mr. C. Davies had been offered a dairy round and had accepted the position.

Industrial Sunday. A letter of thanks was received from the organisers for the help received in contributing towards the expenses.

Hours & Wages. The National Wages Board minutes were received and noted.

Confectionery. It was reported that on the 13th and 14th May the Weights and Measures Inspector had checked and found small and large loaves to be underweight and the staff were now carefully weighing the bread upon delivery. Worcester Bakery had been informed.

C.W.S. The Voting paper was received and votes recorded as follows:-

(i) In favour that two Ordinary General Meetings of the Society be held each year.

(ii) In favour that the Annual General Meeting be held simultaneously at Manchester, Newcastle and London on a Saturday not later than six months after the end of the C.W.S. financial year.

(iii) In favour that the interim General Meeting be held simultaneously at Manchester, Newcastle and London on a Saturday not later than six months after the end of the C.W.S. financial half-year.

(iv) In favour that while complying in all respects with statutory requirements, to enable the members to assess performance there shall be included in or circulated with the accounts for the Annual Meeting a description of the differing operations carried on by the Society and the contributions of such respective differing operations to its trading results.

(v) In favour that an interim Board's Report be circulated to the members in advance of and for consideration at the interim meeting.

(vi) In favour that appropriate provision be made for Special General Meetings to be held in a similar manner to the Ordinary General Meetings.

(vii) In favour that each member be accorded the right to appoint delegates to Ordinary or Special General Meetings of the Society in accordance with a scale based upon net purchases of such member from the Society during the last 12 months ending on the second Saturday in January for which the figures have been published in the Society's statement of accounts, and no change to be made in the voting rights of the shareholders as prescribed in the Rules.

- over -
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 16th May, 1968.

C.W.S.

(viii) In favour that provision be made -at the Board's discretion - for the holding of informal trade conferences during the morning of the day upon which the interim meetings are to be held.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Dairy.

The Sub-committee Chairman reported that an inspection had been made of the new Bottle Washer which was thought to be very satisfactory. Mention was made of the various temporary loose electrical wires hanging overhead and efforts would be made to get the electricians to fix them into their permanent positions.

23rd May, 1968.

Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 23rd May, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and all members were present.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Co-operative Union Ltd.

Highley Society. Mr. S. Martin had requested a further meeting with Highley Society and this was provisionally fixed for 3. p.m. on Wednesday next the 29th May, if the Secretary was available. Confirmation would be sent by post.

Grocery.

A letter of thanks was received from Mr. J. Watkins for the £25 cheque.

Chemists.

It was reported that Mrs. S. Hodges had accepted the position as Chemist at Blackwell Street and Mr. K. Sweetman would now be given one months notice.

Donations.

Resolved that a £2. 2d Voucher be sent to the Worcester Diocesan Association.

Congress.

Resolved that Mr. H. B. Preston hold the Voting Card for Congress.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Dairy.

It was noted that the Dairy had been successful in holding the School Contracts for a further two years and that arrangements were being made to supply the schools in the Halesowen district for which Birmingham Society held the Contracts.

Coal.

Mr. H. B. Preston was thanked for his report on the Coal Conference which had been held in Blackpool.

Education.

Directors Seminar. Alderman H. Parker and Mr. I. R. Webb gave an interesting report for which they were thanked.

Restaurant.

It was reported that Mrs. F. Lewley and Mrs. K. Williams had had disagreements and Mrs. Williams had been suspended until the Secretary's return on Monday next. This action was approved.

30th May, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 30th May, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and all members were present.

Co-operative Union Ltd.

Highley Society. Before the meeting proper Mr. S. Martin, Sectional Secretary of the Co-operative Union attended to assist the Board in their consideration of the possibility of Highley Society transfer of engagements. He gave details of their present position stating that at the present time they were worth 20/- in the £ but perhaps in two years time they would not be, therefore it would be wise to seriously consider transferring now. More than an hour was spent in questions and answers and many points at issue were seriously considered including the question of bad stocks and the employment position of Mr. F. Cox the present Secretary. Many positions had been considered and on the question of stocks it had been agreed that Kidderminster Managers make the valuations. Differential dividend was also thoroughly considered. Eventually it was resolved unanimously that -

this meeting of the Board of Management of the Kidderminster Industrial Co-operative Society Limited hereby agrees in consideration of this society receiving the whole of the stock property and other assets of the Highley Co-operative Society Limited to discharge the liabilities and engagements of the society in full and to issue to each member of the Highley Co-operative Society Limited paid up shares equal to the amount standing to the credit of each such member in the share ledgers of the Highley Co-operative Society Limited on the date when the transfer of engagements becomes effective.

The President thanked Mr. Martin sincerely for his efforts in this matter which he felt would be to the good of the Movement as a whole.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Restaurant.

The Secretary reported that he had interviewed the two ladies of the Restaurant and he had come to the conclusion that there were faults on both sides. Mrs. Williams however, in using physical violence could not be retained in the service of the Society and so had been discharged.

Confectionery.

Further short-weight bread had been found and the discrepancies were still under consideration by the Weights and Measures official.

Investments.

It was noted that the Co-operative Press Balance Sheet was a very poor one but on the other hand the Wigston Hosiers Liquidators would be paying £1 per £1 share.

Education.

A letter from Mr. K. Cooper, Sectional Education Officer, proposed a meeting on the 10th June at Worcester Society to consider a Group Training Officer and it was resolved that Messrs. M. R. Jones, B. Thompson and I. R. Webb attend, together with the Secretary.

Corn and Seed.

It was noted that additional work to cost £20 had been involved in the new building and it was agreed that this be paid.

Nursery Land.

The Local Authority had refused our application for Planning Permission for residential development of the remaining Nursery Land and it was agreed that Notice of Appeal be given.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 30th May, 1968.

Chemist.

Foley Park. Dr. John Hall provided details of the number of scripts issued by his practice and these would be considered by Mr. A. L. Leing who hoped to meet the Board on the matter at a later date.

Drug Stocks. Messrs. Orridges valuation of the drug stocks was received which amounted to £7,952.10. Od and it was agreed that a further valuation be taken in approximately twelve months time.

Coal.

The National Coal Board wished to provide a range of Solid Fuel Heating Appliances on show in the Restaurant and this was approved.

Property.

Prospect. Various items of correspondence were read concerning our compensation claim for Prospect Yard when it appeared that Mr. S. K. Cattell had not dealt with the matter expeditiously.

Mortgage.

Resolved that the Mortgage held by Mrs. Allard-Smith, being recently paid off, be released and the Mortgage Deed be signed and sealed.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Committee.

Resolved that no meeting be held next week unless any urgent matter arises then it shall be called for Friday.

Messrs. F. H. Mills and E. W. Waldron expressed apologies for non-attendance for the following two weeks as they would be on holiday.

Grocery.

A report was given by the Grocery Manager supplemented by the Secretary on investigations made by the Police regarding the youth David Powell employed at the Warehouse who had confessed to stealing 500 cigarettes per week for 15 months. He had been suspended and the Secretary had interviewed him when he appeared contrite and wished to repay from his future wages at the rate of £3 per week if he could be re-employed. After serious and lengthy discussion it was unanimously resolved that he be dismissed, although it was felt that at 18 years of age 29. 9. Od wages, in his position, was low.

Property.

Jenns' and the Fish Shop. A member asked if the proposed deal with Severminster in the Fish Shop entrance project had now fallen through and the Secretary stated that in his opinion the present agreement was null and void but further proposals were being considered by Severminster which would be put to the Board in the near future.

[Signature]
President.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 13th June, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Messrs. E.W. Waldron and F.H. Mills were absent on holiday.

Highley Society. The President welcomed the Highley Board of Management to the meeting who were concerned on four points upon which they needed clarification before next Monday. Kidderminster Board had previously considered these four points and had resolved as follows:-

1. That a District Committee answerable to the Kidderminster Board meet fortnightly or monthly for a six month period should be set up to make use of their experience and knowledge of the Society.

2. On the question of guarantees to Highley employees, Kidderminster Board decided that no Highley employee would be worse off in terms of salary or wages with the proviso that Mr. F. Cox could not be employed economically and there was no need for the Treasurer. Sympathetic efforts would be made to find a suitable position for Mr. Cox in Kidderminster, but it was realised that this would be difficult. U.S.D.A.W. would be paid on Provincial "A" rates.

3. The question of contributions and withdrawals were then considered and the Secretary briefly explained that these would be dealt with at the Branch in the present way. Various other matters were considered.

These four points and other matters were then explained to the Highley Board who, without exception expressed appreciation and thanks. Many other more minor matters were also discussed and amicably resolved.

The President thanked the Highley members for their attendance and they thanked Kidderminster for the friendly way in which they had been met.

Rules. The Secretary recommended that an addition to the Kidderminster Rules be made to provide for a differential dividend and after some discussion the following alteration was recommended :-

Rule 22, Clause (7).

'The Committee of Management may determine that no dividend or a reduced rate of dividend shall be paid in respect of such purchases by members and non-members as the Committee of Management may determine from time to time. Such power of determination shall extend to particular goods or services and/or to the places or areas in which goods or services are sold or provided by the Society.'

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Education.

Mr. M.R. Jones expressed apologies for non-attendance at the Worcester Education Meeting.

Nursery Land.

Messrs. Tiphps and Pritchard would be dealing with our Appeal and Mr. W. Davis expressed willingness to give evidence on our behalf.

Social Club.

The Secretary stated that he had asked the Architects and Solicitor to put in a further application for Planning Permission at Wilton Avenue, with a variation of the car parking area. In addition we would Appeal against the first refusal and these two matters were approved.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 13th June, 1968.

Grocery Warehouse.
It appeared from correspondence with the Co-operative Insurance Society that it was doubtful if we had a claim for the thefts of cigarettes by David Powell but the matter would be discussed with C.I.S.

They now proposed to increase the premium on the Burglary Insurance by 50%. This also would be discussed.

N.S.P.C.C.
Messrs. H.B. Preston and B. Thompson half promised to attend the 75th Annual Meeting.

C.W.S.
It was noted that all the proposals for alterations to Rule had been approved by a majority.

Co-operative Union Ltd.
The Annual Voting results were given.

Kettering Society.
The Secretary reported upon the death of Mr. E.W. Coleman, General Manager, and thanks were expressed to him for the help he had been able to render to Mrs. Coleman.

Coal.
It was noted that Brian Shutt, Coal Chief Clerk had passed the C.U.C. examination and it was agreed that his wage be increased by £1 per week with congratulations.

Confectionery.
There had been no further development on the shortweight of bread.

Reports.
Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Coal.
The National Coal Board invited members to visit Lea Hall Colliery in July and Messrs. H. Preston and M. R. Jones wished to attend.

Superannuation.
Resolved that the following Deeds be signed and sealed:
1. The relinquishment of Trusteeship.
2. The appointment of new Trustees.
3. The Amending Trust Deed.
4. The Legal Charge securing the Fund.

Central Premises.
Store Detectives. The following customers had been apprehended by the Store Detective: Mr. William Pennell of 118 Jubilee Drive: Mrs. E. Curtis of 28 Mill Lane and the police had been informed.

Employees.
It was reported that Mr. Charles Fountney, caretaker, had suffered a burst ulcer last Monday, was in hospital and progressing satisfactorily.
Mrs. E. Skidmore of the Corn and Seed had fallen off a small step ladder and badly bruised her hip.

Committee.
The President and Mr. M. R. Jones expressed apologies for non attendance next week as they would be on holiday.

[Signature] for President.

20th June, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 20th June, 1968.

Mr. B. Thompson occupied the Chair in the absence of the President and Messrs. F. H. Mills, E. Waldron and M. R. Jones, who were on holiday. Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Co-operative Union Ltd.

Highley Society. The Secretary reported that he had attended the Highley meeting where Mr. S. Martin had explained the need for the transfer of engagements. There were 56 members present 55 of whom voted for the transfer and the second meeting was fixed for the 4th of July.

Nursery Land.

The Secretary reported that he had instructed Messrs. Ivens and Norton to act for us in the matter of the Appeal.

Employees.

It was reported that Mr. C. Pontney and Mrs. E. Skidmore were progressing satisfactorily and that Mr. S. Ellis, retired Grocery Branch Manager, had been operated on for ulcers.

Property.

35, 35a Horsefair. Two quotations had been received for the provision of bathrooms at these two flats; T and R Builders in the sum of £650 and Kearton-Jones in the sum of £942. Resolved that the lowest tender be accepted.

Hours and Wages.

It was noted from the National Wages Board that the N.U.C.O. Agreement had been sent to the Department of Employment but no reply had been received.

Electricians. It was noted that the rate for skilled Electricians had increased to £18 as from the 17th June.

U.S.D.A.W. It was reported from the National Wages Board that the U.S.D.A.W. application of 10/- for males and 9/- for females had been approved by the Government on the understanding that the claims concerned will not be interpreted as requiring general increases for those who are paid well above the rates provided for in the agreements. This was seen to provide all sorts of difficulties and a close scrutiny of the whole payments would need to be made. A clarification of the intention of the clause was also requested.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Education.

The delegates reported upon the meeting with Worcester Society to consider a Group Staff Training Officer and a full discussion took place. The costs of such a scheme were given and one delegate felt that it must be done properly or not at all. It was noted that the next meeting would be held on the 19th August and it was agreed that the Secretary explain the scheme to the Departmental Managers. The Board could then reconsider before the 19th.

Co-operative Union Ltd.

Didley Society. The Secretary reported that he had had an unofficial meeting with Didley officials at their request to discuss amalgamation. He gave various statistics of the two societies but it was realised that this matter would better be discussed by the full Board.

Committee Report.

Copies of the Committee Report to the members were provided, certain alterations agreed and finally approved.

Resolved that the promise of a 6d dividend to Highley members be approved.

N.S.P.C.C.

Mr. H. B. Preston was thanked for his report of the Annual Meeting of the N.S.P.C.C.

27th June 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 27th June, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. C. Walters sent apologies for absence owing to illness.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Co-operative Union Ltd.

Highley Society. Various figures of stock estimates were given and the Grocery Manager suggested changing the shop hours to those operating in Kidderminster. He suggested too an application for a Wines and Spirits Licence and that Discount Vouchers should be issued. Resolved that all these matters be approved.

Hours and Wages.

Salaries. Full details of the increases necessary under the new scale for Officials were provided and it was reported that these had now been approved by the Ministry. The Secretary explained the details saying that the Board could if they wished now absorb the overscale payments given in column 5, which meant that the new scale plus merit could be paid or, alternatively the new scale plus merit, plus overscale payment could be paid, and these were as set out in column 6.

The Secretary then suggested that as four officials were in the room they should retire to leave the Board to consider, and this was done. On return Mr. W. Davis announced that they had agreed to pay salaries upon column 6 which included the overscale payments and that these overscale payments should be absorbed at the next major increase in scales. On behalf of the Managers the Secretary thanked the Board for their consideration.

U.S.D.A.W. Further consideration was given to the U.S.D.A.W. increases particularly concerning the Ministry statement that those who are paid well above the rate should not receive the 10/-.

There were varying opinions expressed and it was agreed to hold over a decision until the Co-operative Union could interpret the Clause.

Education.

Details of the proposed Group Training scheme Constitution were received.

Co-operative Union Ltd.

The Secretary provided details of many financial aspects of Worcester, Dudley and Kidderminster Societies and these were studied.

Donation.

Resolved that £10. 10. Od be donated to the Oxfam Botswana Appeal.

Credit Trading.

Provident Club. The U.S.D.A.W. officials requested a meeting with the Board to discuss the suggested introduction of Provident Club Vouchers and after some discussion it was agreed that they be met on a Thursday before the Board meeting.

Superannuation.

The advice of the Actuary was that the 10/- and 9/- U.S.D.A.W. increase should be added to the deduction from wages for pension purposes. A divergence of views arose and it was finally agreed to await a reply from the Actuary and the recommendation of the Superannuation Committee.

Chemists.

A letter from the Pharmaceutical Society stated that Bewdley Road Chemist had wrongly prescribed phenobarbitone solution on the 23rd April last. Mr. Laing would be investigating the circumstances and had called for a report from Mr. J. Elliot.

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Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 27th June, 1968.

Insurance.
Following the visit of the Branch Manager the rate for Burglary Insurance would go up from 10/-% to 15/-%, but further investigations were being made.

In the case of Mr. D. Powell, who stole cigarettes, no claim could be made as there was a £10 excess clause. It was agreed that a Solicitor be appointed to claim restitution.

Social Club.
A new plan was provided and this would be put to the local authority.

Mortgage.
Resolved that a Further Advance of £150 be made to Mr. J.R. Allen on the security of 39 Harvington Close, Kidderminster.

Reports.
Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Horticulture.
The Board were invited to the Summer Show next Tuesday.

Congress.
The delegates were thanked for a very interesting report on the 1968 Congress.

Central Premises.
Store Detectives. Two schoolchildren had been separately caught this last week stealing biscuits and sweets.

President.
4th July, 1968.

Special Committee Meeting held on Monday, 1st July, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Messrs. E.W. Waldron and C. Walters were absent.

Hours and Wages.
The Secretary had called the meeting to consider the proposed National Wages award of 10/- and 9/–. If operated it should commence this day and he felt that if a decision was left until next week there might be some unrest amongst those employees who were highly paid. The question was again fully discussed and the implications of overtime and gallonage commission were fully realised. Eventually it was resolved unanimously that the award be paid to all workers.

President.
4th July, 1968.
Minutes of the meeting of the Kidderminster Co-operative Chemists Limited, held on Thursday, 4th July, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. I. R. Webb was absent.

The meeting was called to consider the irregular prescription by Mr. J. Elliott. A letter of explanation was received from Mr. Elliott and this was supplemented by Mr. A. B. Leaing. After some discussion it was agreed that this was not likely to be a serious matter and that it should take its course.

Mr. Sweetman had been given notice to terminate his services at the end of July on the grounds that he took more overtime whilst on rota than should have been necessary. Mr. Sweetman had written appealing against the decision and the matter was fully discussed but it was eventually agreed that no further action be taken.

11th July, 1968.

For President.

Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 4th July, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. I. R. Webb sent apologies for absence.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting and of the meeting held on Monday last, be confirmed and signed.

Hours and Wages.

The Secretary reported that the increase had been paid to the Dairy workers this week.

Credit Trading.

Provident Club. A letter from the U. S. D. A. W. Area Supervisor agreed to a meeting on a Thursday in the near future.

Superannuation.

A letter from the Actuary strongly pressed for the addition of the U. S. D. A. W. rise to the deductions for Superannuation purposes pointing out that it would cost £3,734, and after some discussion it was agreed to recommend to the Superannuation Committee that the Actuary's advice be accepted.

Co-operative Union Ltd.

A conference on Regionalisation had been called for September 14th but it was realised that this was stocktaking Saturday.

Education.

Staff Training. The Secretary reported that he had met the Managers and put a case for a Group Training Scheme but only one Manager was at all in favour; the shortage of staff and the cost of the scheme were deciding factors in their view and it was agreed that a precis of the whole situation be provided and the matter be left to the next meeting.

Resolved that the Secretary attend the Chief Officials Course on the 20/22nd September.

Corn and Seed.

Mr. A. H. Jones apologised for not being able to complete his new building owing to pressure of business and shortage of staff. It was noted that Messrs. Lacy Brothers had been asked to defer the provision of toilet facilities until Mr. Jones' position is easier.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 5th July, 1968.

Property. Prospect Lane. The Secretary gave details of the claim for compensation prepared by Mr. K. Cattell which amounted to £19,552. The District Valuer had however, offered £9,726 and subsequently raised it to £10,000. Mr. Cattell and the Secretary had discussed this thoroughly and were of the opinion we ought to get up to £13,000 but suggested that we ask for £14,500. There was a great deal of discussion and some disappointment but it was eventually agreed that we try for £14,500 but be prepared to accept £13,000.

Butchers Pool. A report was given on the Butchers Pool Balance Sheet from which it was seen that they had made 1/4d in the £ compared with 1/1d last year.

Reports. Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Grocery. Resolved that a Sub-committee be called for the 15th July at 6 p.m.

Coal. Details were given of the visit to Alveley Pit on the 17th July next.

Hirchen Coppice. It was reported that the Town Council requested us to pay £5.5.0d towards their cost of the new lease but the Solicitor advised that there was nothing in the agreement. It was resolved that this account should not be paid.

Central Promises. Store Detectives. It was reported that two women had been caught shoplifting this week; Mrs. V. Gill of Bowles Road, Bewdley, at Bewdley Branch and Mrs. Amphlett of Hurcott Road. Both cases had been reported to the police.

For President.

11th July, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 11th July, 1968.

Mr. E. W. Waldron occupied the Chair, the President having sent apologies for absence.

Congratulations were expressed to the President on the success of his son Paul at York University where he had gained a B.Sc., 1st Class Honours.

Resolved that the minutes of the Kidderminster Co-operative Chemists meeting and of the ordinary meeting be confirmed and signed.

Minutes.

Bewdley St. Chemist.

A letter from the Pharmaceutical Society stated that they would institute legal proceedings against the Society in the matter of a wrong prescription made up by Mr. J. Elliott. It was agreed that a defence be organised and the Co-operative Union advice be sought.

Credit Trading.

Provident Club. Arrangements had been made to meet Mr. S. Atkin and other members of the U.S.D.A.W. at 7 p.m. on Thursday, 18th July, and it was agreed that the Board meet at 6.30 p.m. to consider this matter.

Education.

Staff Training. The Secretary provided another report and referred to an earlier one of last November, asking the Board to read these for consideration next week.

Property.

Prospect Lane. Details were given of the further claim for compensation for this property and these were approved.

Grocery.

Brief details were given of Severnminster's estimate for the proposed alterations at Franche Road Grocery and this would be considered in detail by the Grocery Sub-committee.

Hours and Wages.

Thanks were received from the Managers for the Boards consideration of the salary position.

Property.

43 High Street, Stourport on Severn. Investigations had been made as to the Capital Gains liability following the sale of this property and it was estimated that it might be over £2,000.

Grocery.

Birchen Coppice. Resolved that the continuing Lease be signed and sealed.

Central Premises.

Security. An estimate was received from Securicor to transfer approximately £8,000 per week from the Cashiers Office to the Bank. This would cost £3 per week and it was agreed that this service be engaged for a trial period.

Coal.

Resolved that the Agreement to rent 300 square yards of Stacking ground from the British Railways, be signed and sealed.

Men's Wear.

Resolved on the recommendation of the Manager that Counter Top fittings be purchased amounting to £114 2s. 6d.

Highley Society.

The Secretary reported that Mr. F. Cox of Highley was under some pressure from the Registrar of Friendly Societies as to their reasons for paying dividend from Reserves and questioning their high stocks.

A written report from Mr. E. W. Harvey stated that the shop stock of £1,225 was good and the bad stock had been transferred upstairs for further investigation.

...over...
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 11th July, 1968.

Highley Society.

Shop opening on Saturday afternoon had been arranged and the Auditor had been notified of the arrangements for the Balance Sheet.

The Secretary reported that there was a Hugin Check-out machine which cost £349, 15 months ago and which was on rent to Highley at £24 per annum. He recommended that it be purchased for £243 and this was approved.

It was reported that Highley Share numbers would in future be proceed by 30,000 so that they should not be confused with similar Kidderminster numbers.

On the question of the legalities of the transfer it was resolved that this Society undertake to fulfill the engagements of Highley Co-operative Society and that an application for registration of such a special resolution be signed and sealed.

Petrol Filling Station.

A comprehensive report was received from the Co-operative Union Limited on the proposed Petrol Station and Chemists shop at Foley Park and the Secretary asked that this document be studied and it could be discussed next week.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Dairy.

The Manager reported that the Dairy Offices had again been broken into but little damage and no loss was seen.

Co-operative Party.

The delegates were thanked for their report of the recent Conference.

Superannuation.

Resolved that a Superannuation Committee meeting be called for the 22nd July at 7 p.m.

Quarterly Report.

The printed report was considered and it was suggested that in future Board members sit in the body of the hall at the Quarterly meeting leaving only the President and the Chief Official on the platform. Consideration would be given and a vote taken next week.

18th July, 1968.

President.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 18th July, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and all members were present.

Provident Club. Before the meeting proper commenced the Chairman welcomed U.S.D.A.W. representatives, Mr. S. Atkin, Ald. J. G. Parker and Mr. D. Wakeling, who came to discuss the proposition to accept Provident Club vouchers in the Society's shops. Mr. S. Atkin and the other delegates made earnest representation that such a course would be to the disadvantage of the Society and of the representatives. There was a lengthy discussion in which they were assured that no decision had yet been made and they asked for guaranteed average earnings if a decision to operate the Provident Club trade was made. The President thanked them for their efforts on behalf of the Society.

Mr. A. B. Leing attended and gave a report upon the procedure in the development of a defence against the charge issued by the Pharmaceutical Society. He suggested strongly that the case should go forward, partly to vindicate the Society and Mr. Elliott and partly to prove that their Inspector was wrong. The Secretary suggested that the Pharmaceutical Society should be informed of the nature of our defence to give them an opportunity to withdraw so that adverse publicity was not engendered. It was realised that the Pharmaceutical Society should not be forced to apologise but it was eventually resolved that the Secretary's suggestion be acted upon.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Mr. E. W. Harvey thanked the Board for their good wishes for his son's success.

Highley Society.

Mr. F. Cox. A number of small matters were mentioned and it was reported that Mr. F. Cox had been offered £20 per week as a counter clerk in the office. He was very interested.

Valuation. It was noted that the Agents felt that the Highley property was worth at least £16,000.

Treasurer. The Treasurer, having served the Highley Society for 20 years, it was agreed that an honorarium be presented to him of £20.

Discount Vouchers. A difficulty was seen with the Discount Vouchers at Highley in that they would be commenced on the 22nd July and withdrawn in four weeks. It was felt that this might create dispondency and it was agreed that for Highley the scheme continue for the usual seven weeks of closure.

Quarterly Meeting.

The question of whether or not Board members should sit on the platform was considered and after some discussion it was resolved that members remain on the platform.

The West Midlands Traffic Area notified that our standard of equipment and staffing were in order and the authorisation for Testing will be continued.

Grocery.

Mrs. Anman's complaint about various commodities purchased at Lichfield Road Branch had been investigated by Mr. D. I. John and he gave a lengthy report. The Board expressed satisfaction.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly statement be approved.

[Signature]
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 18th July, 1968.

The Chairman gave a brief report upon the Grocery Sub-committee dealing with Highley grocery stock, Franche Road leakage results which were seen to be in order and gave a progress report upon the Franche Road proposed alterations. The costs of refrigeration, heating and fixtures were awaited when the matter would be considered again.

A brief report was given of the visit to Alveley Pit and thanks were expressed. Resolved that a donation of £5. 5. Od be sent to the Miners Welfare Fund.

The Secretary reported that the Chemist Warehouse had been broken into and whisky and cigarettes to the value of £193 had been stolen. The police and insurance society had been informed.

It was suggested that new storage arrangements could be made and the Secretary would investigate.

President.


Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 25th July, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. F. Hills was absent. It was reported that Mr. and Mrs. Hills had suffered injury in a motor car accident last Monday. Although they were not seriously injured, Mrs. Hills had extensive facial injury. Resolved that a message of sympathy be sent.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Credit
Trading.

Provident Club. The Secretary recommended that Provident Club vouchers be accepted and that dividend be paid. Existing earnings he felt could not be guaranteed and he recommended that the position be reconsidered in six months time. It was resolved unanimously that the matter be approved in principle and that contract details be obtained.

Chemists.

Further information was given on the defence procedure, and it now appeared certain that the Pharmaceutical Society case relied upon Mr. J. Elliott's statement that the prescription was not signed. This was obviously untrue and further details were awaited.

Highley
Society.

Stocks. It was agreed that all stocks be taken in full and that the loss be carried forward into the Kidderminster Society's accounts.

Valuation. A survey stating that the property was worth £16,250 was received from the Valuers.

Sales. Reports were given of the interest shown by Highley members in regard to the Sales of reduced stocks.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 25th July, 1968.

Management. The Secretary reported that Mr. John felt that the branch manager should manage the grocery section only but the Secretary thought that Mr. Penn should be expected to supervise as far as administration and discipline of staff were concerned in the dry goods shops. This was approved.

Staff. Notice to terminate his services was received from Mr. H. Findlay and the Secretary was asked to endeavour to placate him.

Co-operative Party. Information was received of a Party meeting to be held on Monday, 30th September and it was agreed that this information be passed to Mr. C. Yarsley of the Labour Party.

Education Trip. An invitation was received from the Education Committee to join with them in the Annual Cutting and Messers. W. Davis, H. Parker and M. R. Jones and E. W. Harvey expressed a wish to attend.

C.W.S. Marketing. Resolved that Mr. D. I. John and the Secretary attend the C.W.S. Marketing Meeting on October 16th in Manchester.

Hours and Wages. The Co-operative Union asked for views on a proposed Productivity and Efficiency Scheme but the Secretary felt that it was almost impossible for retail shop staffs. There was considerable discussion but no decision.

Mortgage. Resolved that the Additional Deed providing a further advance of £150 to Mr. J. E. Allen on the security of 39 Harvington Close Kidderminster, be signed and sealed.

Petrol Filling Station. It was agreed that the Co-operative Union report on the Petrol Station and Chemist Shop proposition, be considered after the holiday.

Social Club. It was reported that the second application for the Social Club on Wilton Avenue, had been turned down by the local authority but the Appeal against the first refusal would be heard on October 17th.

Holidays. It was noted that Mr. B. Thompson would be away for two weeks and Mr. I. R. Webb from the 17th August onwards.

Reports. Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Dairy. The Chairman suggested that the Sub-committee visit the Dairy after the holiday and this was approved.

Debts. The Secretary reported again upon the position of Mr. Key of Clifton on Teme, whose accounts were £4,075 in arrears. This matter had been reported before and it was resolved that a warning letter be sent to him after which strong action should be taken.

Bank Holiday. Resolved that the shops be closed all day on September 2nd and half a day on September 3rd.

Central Premises. Store Detectives. Two boys had been caught by the Store Detective and they had been reported to the police. Their names were Michael Teale and Colin Brooks ages 15 and 14 years.

Corn and Seed. The Secretary reported that Mrs. Skiddmore would be 65 years of age on the 31st August. She did not wish to retire and Mr. A. H. Jones would be willing to retain her services. Resolved that this be approved on a six months basis.

Central Premises. Resolved that the Central Premises be painted outside in the Co-operative Colours.

1st August, 1968.

[Signature] President.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 1st August, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. B. Thompson sent apologies for absence.

Mr. F.H. Mills was pleased to say that some improvement in Mrs. Mills condition was evident although her facial injuries were fairly extensive.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Credit Trading.

Provident Club. The Secretary reported that he had met the Provident Clothing Club officials and had arranged for the four Dry Goods Managers to meet them next Thursday when a date for commencement might be established. Various correspondence with the U.S.D.A.W. and Co-operative Union relating to the mutuality representatives case were read and discussed.

Chemists.

It appeared likely that the Pharmaceutical Society will proceed with their court case against the Society in the case of the alleged prescription without a doctor's signature.

Highley Branch.

It was reported that Highley Branch sales were nearly £2,000 last week, although it was realized that the sale had helped. A District Meeting had been called for 7 p.m. at Highley on Friday, 2nd August and the President and Messrs. M. R. Jones and W. Davis were appointed to attend.

Dairy Debt.

A letter from Mr. F. J. Key said that he had contacted his Bank presumably to arrange an overdraft and it was agreed that two weeks grace be given.

Investments.

It was noted that the Co-operative Cleaners Limited had increased their Share Interest to 5% and Loan Interest to 7%.

Preliminary details were received of the new Co-operative Pensions Fund Unit Trust set up by the C.W.S. and Messrs. S. G. Warburg. Further details were awaited.

Nursery Land.

The Secretary provided a written report of negotiations with Severminster Developments for the sale to them of nearly 6½ acres, the last of the Nursery Land. Their offer, subject to Planning Permission was £12,150 per acre and they would organise and pay for the Appeal against the refusal. This offer amounted to £77,893 approximately but Betterment Levy amounting to £32,504 would probably be due. This after expenses would leave us with a net profit of £6,644 per acre or £42,600. After discussion and a number of questions it was unanimously resolved that the offer be accepted.

Central Premises.

It was noted that the Planning Authority had refused permission to display the new signs.

Education.

Resolved that the President and Mr. B. Thompson together with the Secretary, attend the joint meeting with Worcester on the 19th August, to consider again the proposed Group Training Officer scheme. The Board would consider the matter on the 19th August.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

\[signature\]  
-over-
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 1st August, 1968.

Education.

A report was given of the Annual Trip with particular reference to the 20 odd members who were unfortunately left behind. It was suggested that a special meeting of the Education Committee be called soon so that this failure could be investigated.

Grocery.

The Secretary reported that Mr. A. Davies, late Branch Manager for many years had died on Saturday night and a number of employees and Board members had attended the funeral.

Resolved that no meeting be held next week unless specially required.

Central Premises.

Store Detectives. It was reported that Mrs. A. E. Cawley of Areley Kings had been seen by the Store Detective to take goods from the shop without paying and the police had been informed.

Committee Outing.

The President invited the Board members and their wives together with Miss and Mrs. Horton and the Secretary and his wife to a Committee Outing which was provisionally fixed for the 25th August. This would entail a coach trip to the Cotswolds or Wales together with a good meal at night.

Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 15th August, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. G.A. Phillips sent apologies for absence.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Credit Trading.

Provident Club. The Secretary reported that he and the Provident Club officials had met the Managers concerned and answered many questions. It was agreed to commence the scheme on Monday, 12th August and at 9.15 a.m. on that day the first check was spent.

Chemists.

It was reported that a witness summons had been served on Mr. Penny at London but he did not wish to attend and the Doctor had been asking for the prescription but the Secretary would not release it. This was approved.

Highley Branch.

A report of the meeting at Highley was given and the offers made to Mr. F. Cox were detailed. A number of problems following that meeting would be dealt with by Mr. John.

Thanks were recorded to the Secretary and the Managers for their work in the Transfer of Engagements.

It was noted that the Transfer was Registered and that the next meeting would be in two weeks time.

Details of the final Balance Sheet were given and it was seen that a loss of £5,516 had been made and it was reported that a further £2,000 loss would be dealt with next September. It was agreed that Mr. S. Martin be informed.

Dairy.

Nothing further had been heard from Mr. F. J. Key and it was resolved that the Secretary put the pressure on.

Nursery Land.

The Secretary reported upon discussions with Mr. E. Grove with regard to the question of Betterment Levy and it was illegal to pass that Levy over to the purchaser. Mr. Grove had said that if the Betterment Levy increases next year he will pay an Introductory Fee if the transaction could be left in a verbal state at the present time.

General approval was expressed.

Education.

Resolved that Messrs. E. W. Harvey, B. Thompson and the Secretary attend the meeting at Worcester next Monday to deal with the Group Training Officer. The general expression of views were that the costs appear to be high and some members thought that we should not enter the Group Training Scheme.

Mr. H. R. Jones gave a report of the meeting concerning the members left behind at the trip stating that Messrs. Whittles had been blamed, and the Education Committee had inserted an apology in the local press.

Committee Outing.

It was reported that the Midland Red coach and the dinner had been booked for the 25th August but unfortunately Mr. & Mrs. C. Walters, Mr. G. and Mrs. I. R. Webb and Mrs. Mills would be absent.

Horticulture.

An invitation was received to attend the Flower Show on the 7th Sept, and Mr. A. M. Jones invited Vice Presidents fees from members of the Board suggesting 7/6d.

Hours and Wages.

It was noted from the National minutes that local schemes for N.U.C.O. Productivity were acceptable as long as they were agreed between the N.U.C.O. members, the Board of Management and the Co-operative Union.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 15th August, 1968.

Grocery.

The Secretary requested consideration of the publicity being given to the possibility of Retail Price Maintenance being cancelled on Tobacco and Cigarettes. A decision should be made within the next few weeks and it was agreed that the Grocery Sub-committee consider this on the 26th August.

Traffic.

Notification was received that Messrs. Woolworths would close Worcester Street for two hours for a number of mornings in the near future for the purpose of unloading at their new store.

The Secretary gave details of his action with regard to parking in Worcester Street before 6.30 p.m. when the police were turning a blind eye.

Horsefair parking difficulties were also reported and the matter was being taken up with the police.

Central Premises.

The Secretary reported that two children had reported him to the police for being in the Store at 8 p.m. and he had thanked them.

Social Club.

It was noted that the Social Club Appeal would be heard in October.

Property.

Prospect Lane. After further discussions with the District Valuer Mr. E.K. Cattell had now agreed Compensation for the Prospect Lane Yard at £12,500 and this figure was reluctantly approved, the Secretary feeling that we could get no more.

Check Office.

The Contract for the processing of checks was about to terminate and the Secretary had asked Messrs. Mills Associates and C.W.S. Bureau to quote. Mills Associates quotation was £444 per half year which was 26% cheaper than the C.W.S. and this was approved.

Investments.

The Secretary gave a report upon the investments position pointing out that we would have £124,000 free in 2½ years time and suggested that some longer term investments ought now to be considered. He recommended Bedford Borough Council at 7½% for 10 years and Kidderminster Borough Council on the same terms. It was agreed that £15,000 be withdrawn from C.W.S. and invested with Bedford and £15,000 from Current Account invested with Kidderminster.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Petrol Filling Station.

Resolved that this matter be considered on Friday, 13th September and that Mr. Ainsworth of the Co-operative Union be invited to be present. It was requested that information be obtained from Birmingham Society as to the financial results of their stations.

Central Premises.

It was reported that Mr. A.S. Pierce had deliberately broken the Wine Shop window and taken three bottles of beer. He had been fined £30 with £70 restitution.

22nd August, 1968.

President.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 22nd August, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Messrs. G.A. Phillips, I.R. Webb and C. Walters sent apologies for absence due to holidays.

Minutes.
Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Credit Trading.
Provident Club. A progress report was given on the Provident Clothing Club and a letter from Alderman J.G. Parker asked the Secretary to meet the collectors to discuss a wage increase and the security position.

Chemists.
It was noted that the Pharmaceutical Society had not withdrawn their summons and that we would be pleading 'not guilty' and if successful applying for costs.

Highley
The question of employment of Mr. F. Cox was considered at length and the Secretary recommended that he be put in charge of the Token and Coal payments kiosk. This would take the responsibility from Mr. Wakeman and he might lose £3 wages per week in this respect. It was felt that further thought should be given to this and it was eventually agreed that this be left for negotiation. Consideration was given to offering Mr. Cox not more than £500 to terminate his services and it was eventually agreed that this be done.

Nursery Land.
It was noted that the Appeal regarding the Nursery Land would be heard on November 14th at 10 a.m. in the Town Hall.

Education.
The delegates reported that the question of the Group Training Officer between Worcester and Kidderminster had eventually been turned down although it might be considered at a later date.

Committee.
It was agreed that the Committee Outing commence at 2.30 p.m.

Investments.
On the recommendation of the Secretary it was agreed that £45,000 be withdrawn from the Co-operative Permanent Building Society investment and transferred to Bedford Corporation, at 7 1/2% for 10 years.

Petrol Filling Station.
It was reported that difficulties had arisen with regard to the proposed meeting to consider the Petrol Station project and it was eventually agreed that the meeting be held on the 30th August at 7 p.m.

Mortgage.
Resolved that as all monies had been paid on the Mortgage held by Mr. W.B. Barry, 49 Franchise Street, an endorsement of release be made upon the Deed.

Regional Plan.
The Secretary read the Co-operative Union's advice with regard to Regional Planning for amalgamations but after considerable discussion the Board felt that the time was not right.

Reports.
Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Dairy.
Walter Jackson, a dairy roundman who was engaged in 1961, had given his age as 55 years when at that time he was 61. It will be necessary to approach the Actuary to put this position right with regard to his Superannuation account and his future employment might be considered six monthly.

[Signature]
President.

29th August, 1968.
Minutes of the meeting of the Kidderminster Co-operative Chemists Limited held on Thursday, 29th August, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. C. Walters was absent.

Mr. A. B. Leing gave a report on the Court case last week which had been dismissed but the Justices had made no order with regard to costs, which in our case were £57. There was some thought that we should attempt to get costs from the Pharmaceutical Society but this was left to the Secretary in consultation with the Solicitors.

Mr. W. Davis suggested that all managers should contact the Chief Official before taking any action that might lead to serious consequences, and the Secretary said that this was usually done.


President.

5th September, 1968.

Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 29th August, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. C. Walters was absent.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Credit Trading.

Mutuality Collectors. The Secretary had met the Mutuality Collectors but a report would be given next week.

Highley.

It was noted that Mr. F. Cox had commenced work in the token kiosk and the Secretary stated that he had asked for the advice of the Co-operative Union with regard to the £3 paid to Mr. B. Wakelam.

Repairs. A list was given of the repairs that appeared to be necessary at Highley Branch and it was resolved that they be done.

Investments.

The Co-operative Permanent Building Society investment could be withdrawn as to £25,000 in one month and £20,000 in three months and the Secretary suggested that it might be wise to invest the £25,000 from overdraft in case the rate of interest drops.

Petrol Station.

The Board were reminded of the meeting tomorrow night when Mr. Ainworth from the Co-operative Union Limited would attend.

Donations.

Resolved that a donation of 25. 5. Od be given towards the Beatrice Webb House Fund.

It was agreed that a Voucher be given to the Hartlebury Grammar School Michaelmas Fayre.

Grocery.

Resolved that Mr. E. W. Waldron and the Grocery Manager attend the Conference on Supermarkets on the 21/22 October.

Resolved that the President and Mr. B. Thompson attend the Opening Ceremony of Worcester Society's new store on the 20th September.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 29th August, 1968.

The Chairman gave a report of the Grocery Sub-committee meeting when they had considered what action to take if Retail Price Maintenance on cigarettes was abolished. Various possibilities had been considered including a non-dividend policy but it was recommended that small cuts of 3d and 2d with full dividend be operated. A full discussion took place and it was realised that changes might have to be made according to the actions of competitors but staff instructions and publicity should now be prepared although it might be necessary to call an emergency meeting of the Grocery Sub-committee if the position changes.

Stock-checking.
The Secretary read out the preliminary stock-checking rota which would be duplicated next week and all members felt able to undertake the duties.

Credit Trading.
Provident Club. The Secretary reported that about £30 per week had been taken on the Provident Club for the first two weeks and in reply to questions he gave details of the system.

President.
5th September, 1968.

Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 5th September, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and all members were present.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting and of the Chemist Society meeting, be confirmed and signed.

Highley.
The Secretary reported that Mr. L. Oakes, Labour Adviser recommended that negotiations should be undertaken with Mr. B. Wakelam and the U.S.D.A.W. Many members thought however that no action should be taken and it was agreed that a final decision be held over until the cash results of the token kiosk are investigated.

It was reported that various licencing and agreement matters had been cleared up.

Investments.
The Secretary said that he had telephoned Bedford who were prepared to accept investments at 7½% for 10 years. Resolved that £25,000 be invested immediately.

Co-operative Unit Trusts. Booklets were received dealing with the Co-operative Pension Fund Unit Trust and the Secretary explained much of the detail. It was agreed that consideration be given at a later date.

C.W.S. Interim Dividend. Notification was received that the C.W.S. Interim Dividend was 1d in the £, plus an additional 1d on C.W.S. purchases.

Stock-checking. Detailed lists were provided and approved.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 5th September, 1968.

Menswear.
Resolved that Mr. W. Davis and Mr. R. Hood attend the Menswear Conference at Brighton from October 7th to 10th.

Reports.
Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

The Secretary stated that he was thinking of ordering that the 4d postage be used and this was approved.

Butchery.
The Chairman of the Butchery Sub-committee reported that Mr. A. Dinndale had been causing trouble again with the staff in the Central Butchery. Mr. W. Cookson, who attended, gave details of the difficulties stating that Mr. Dinndale had been seen by the Executive Officer on this subject on two previous occasions. The Chairman recommended that Mr. Dinndale be moved to a Branch and that Mr. D. Watkins be appointed Assistant Shop Manager and this was approved unanimously.

C.W.S.
Marketing. Resolved that a Menswear Sub-committee be called for 6.30 p.m. on the 12th September to consider the C.W.S. Marketing Scheme. Details would be posted.

Transport.
Resolved that the Ford Zephyr be changed, it being two years old, and on the recommendation of the Transport Manager and the Secretary a similar car, a Corsair, be purchased.

Grocery.
It was noted that D. Powell who had stolen cigarettes and had been discharged had been fined £75. His Uncle Mr. J. Powell had also been fined £75 for Receiving. It was resolved that he be discharged.

Petrol Filling Station.
Complimentary comments were made on Mr. Ainsworth's visit last Friday and his answers to various questions. After considerable discussion it was resolved that we proceed with the limited scheme of the Petrol Filling Station at an estimated cost of £14,000 with the hope that we might expand into new car sales at a later date. The larger scheme to be provided for on the plans if possible.

Chemist.
Resolved that the Chemist shop be commenced at Foley Park together with a new Grocery Shop Front and general tidying up of the forecourt.

It was realised that this would mean a new Order Room and it would mean the transfer of the Social Club. It was noted that the Appeal was to be heard on October 17th, but some thought was given to vacation of the premises as soon as possible.

President.

12th September, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 12th September, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and all members were present.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed
and signed.

Central
Promises.

Token Kiosk. The Secretary gave details of the cash shortages
over the past six months in the Token Kiosk which averaged nearly
£2 per week. It was stated also that this was entirely a
Grocery leakage and that the Coal Cash Desk balanced their
accounts very well indeed. Various points of view were put
forward and it was remembered that Mr. Cox had not yet stated
whether he preferred Redundancy pay. It was agreed that it
be considered again next week.

Butchery.

Mr. A. Dinsdale, who was considerably shocked by the decision to
move him to a smaller branch, asked to meet the Board but the
proposal to do so was defeated. Resolved that Mr. Dinsdale be
informed that in view of the complaints made by Mr. Cookson and
substantiated by other individuals that the Board's view was
that he had not been unjustly treated.

Stockchecking.

It appeared that various alterations in the Stockcheckers list
were necessary and these were detailed and approved.

Hours and
Wages.

The National Wages Board minutes were received and
noted.

Highley.

A letter from the Bank of England stated that the Highley
Government investments would be transferred to the Kidderminster
Society.

L.andP.
Societies Act.

The Secretary gave a brief resume of the alterations necessary
under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1968. This
mainly related to the Accounting Period, Audit and Group Balance
Sheets and he pointed out that Rule Alterations would be necessary
before the 26th July, 1969. More details would be given later.

Areley Kings.

The Secretary had written to a number of residents warning them
against parking their cars on Areley Kings Forecourt at night
and this was approved.

Bewdley Road
Chemists.

A letter from our Solicitors suggested that there would be little
chance of obtaining costs from the Pharmaceutical Society and it
was agreed that no action be taken.

Dairy.

It was noted that Mr. W. Jackson wished to retire when he was 70.
This is on the 6th December, 1969 and this was approved subject
to his health and ability remaining good.

Central
Promises.

A precis for a Security Scheme with a Night Watchman was provided
and this would be considered at a later date.

Men's Wear.

The Chairman gave a report of the earlier meeting dealing with
the new Marketing Scheme and he recommended that it be supported.

Horticulture.

Sincere thanks were expressed to Mr. M. R. Jones and Mr. A. H. Jones
for a very successful Horticultural Show.

Central
Promises.

Store Detectives. It was reported that a Mrs. E. Saunders had been
cought Shop Lifting in the Butchery Department on Saturday last.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 12th September, 1968.

Restaurant.

Serious complaints were made regarding the activities of young people in the Restaurant on Saturday afternoons and it was agreed that Board members see for themselves next Saturday and report next week.

Furnishing.

Mr. I. R. Webb raised the question of the failure of the Furnishing Department to carry out its promise to a customer to inspect a second-hand suite in consequence of which the department had lost the sale of a new suite. Value £62 10. Od. He had seen Mr. J. Minett and had reported the matter to the Secretary. Mr. Minett gave a written report of the incident but it was generally felt that a better service should have been given. Other complaints over recent years were reconsidered and it was agreed that Mr. J. Minett should meet the Sub-committee on Thursday next at 6.30 p.m. The full Board would then meet at 7.30 p.m.

President.

19th September, 1968.

Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 19th September, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and all members were present.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Central Premises.

Token Kiosk. It was reported that Mr. F. Cox, late of Highley, had been trying to find another job and it was suggested that he might be of use to the Furnishing Manager as a salesman. Unless he could find another job he was not interested in the £500 redundancy pay. In the meantime he was still at work in the Token Kiosk.

Butchery.

It was reported that Mr. A. Dinsdale had moved to Franche Branch and it was agreed that his weekly wages be £18. Mr. D. Watkins was appointed Assistant Branch Manager at the Central at the rate of £18 per week and it was also agreed that Mr. Dinsdale's superannuation contributions continue on the old scale.

Highley.

It was noted that the Investments Certificates had been received from the Bank of England.

Butchers Pool.

The Co-operative Union advised that the Butchers Pool was not a subsidiary of the Society for the purpose of the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1968.

Dairy.

The Actuary recommended that Mr. W. Jackson be paid a pension of 12/- per week when he retires in December 1969.

Restaurant.

Reports were given of the activities of young people in the Restaurant on Saturday afternoons and the position was discussed. It was decided that notices be displayed saying that no tables must be moved, and the Secretary was instructed to find out if a Police Officer or a retired Policeman could be employed for a few hours on Saturdays.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 19th September, 1968.

Donation.
Resolved that a small donation be given to the Wolverley Memorial Hall Christmas Bazaar.

C.W.S.
Resolved that Messrs. W.Davis and I.R.Webb attend the half-yearly meeting at Birmingham on the 19th October.

Hours and Wages.
N.U.C.O. The new salary agreement for Departmental Managers was approved and this provided for increases in salary if there is sales increases and the net rate of profit is increased etc. A Personal Standard Salary had been calculated and the Secretary suggested that he obtains the views of the Managers as to whether or not the present Merit Award Scheme should continue.

Education.
It was reported that Mr.C.Cooper, Electrician, had passed an examination and some small token of appreciation was recommended through the Education Committee.

Central Premises.
It was noted that Mr.W.Colsey was retiring on the 20th September and a letter of thanks for his services would be sent. Mr.S.Cooper had been engaged in his place.

Areley Kings old Butchery.
Mr.Radford of Astley Burf had offered £5 per week rent plus rates for Areley Kings Butchery shop and it was agreed that this be accepted. It would be necessary to purchase a refrigerated service cabinet for the Grocery at a cost of £159, and this was approved.

Secretary.
Resolved that the Secretary attend a Secretary's Course at Southport, if possible.

Dairy.
Information was given regarding the Solicitors efforts to press Mr.F.J.Key with regard to his debt.

Reports.
Resolved that the weekly reports be approved. Resolved that the new Bottle Washer be inspected on Saturday, 28th September at 10 a.m.

Furnishing.
The Sub-committee had met Mr.J.Minett to consider various complaints and the Chairman reported that they had examined the situation in detail. It was felt that the position should be investigated in greater depth particularly in regard to the reallocation of space and the suitability of staff. The Chairman reported progress and further investigations were to be made.

Committee.
Mr.M.R.Jones expressed apologies for non-attendance next week.

C.W.S.
The Secretary stated that he and Mr.John had attended the Conference of Retail Price Maintenance on Cigarettes and a written statement was promised. The general consensus of opinion appeared to be that no dividend should be paid if the price is cut.

Stock-Checking.
The Stockcheckers reports were received and individually they were quite in order. One or two small items were mentioned which the Secretary would deal with.

Mr.H.B.Preston.
The President congratulated Mr.H.B.Preston on being presented with a Silver Medal in recognition of many years service to his Trade Union, the Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers.

26th September, 1968.

President.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 26th September, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. M. R. Jones was on holiday.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Central Premises.

The Secretary stated that he had had a long discussion with Mr. J. Minett who felt that consideration of his staff position ought to be deferred until he sees his trading results, and the Board approved.

Mr. Minett was not interested in the employment of Mr. F. Cox but felt that a modernisation of the store ought to be undertaken. He had considered the suggestions to move to the new premises and was prepared to give it further consideration.

Dairy.

Mr. W. Jackson had been interviewed and expressed regret for giving his wrong age and had accepted the fact that he would retire in December 1969, on 12/- per week pension.

Restaurant.

Details were given of two incidents with youths when Board members had disciplined them successfully.

C.W.S.

Neither Mr. L. R. Webb. or Mr. W. Davis were able to attend the C.W.S. meeting and after progressing through the rota Messrs. E. W. Waldron and H. B. Preston were appointed and were willing to attend.

Grocery.

Retail Price Maintenance on Cigarettes. A written report was given of the urgent Grocery Sub-committee on Monday night following the withdrawal of the opposition of R.P.M. A long discussion had taken place and various decisions had been arrived at, the main one of which was the recommendation not to pay dividend on cigarette sales if the prices were cut. Subsequently the Grocery Manager and the Secretary came to the conclusion following the action of competitors that the named brands should be cut by 9d for 60 and that no dividend should be paid. In further discussions and reports today it was suggested that 3d per packet off all cigarettes should be given and the Secretary gave many details of the position in the town, the West Midlands and the country. The report was approved and adopted with congratulations to the officials and the Sub-committee.

Resolved that part of the Minute of the 29th August relating to Dividend on cut price cigarettes, be rescinded.

Education.

Resolved that Messrs. M. R. Jones and E. Thompson attend a Conference at Leicester on Staff Training on the 14th October.

C.W.S.

Resolved that the Secretary, the Grocery Manager and a Dry Goods Manager attend the C.W.S. Marketing Presentation on the 16th October at Manchester.

Investments.

The Sperope Footwear manufacturers in liquidation forwarded a last cheque for £3. 7. 4d which made a total payment of 13/7/2d in the £. £35. 8. 2d would be written off.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Worcester Society.

A report was given of the visit to Worcester Society when their new Central Premises were opened.

\[signature\]

- over -
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 26th September, 1968.

Petrol Filling Station.

The Secretary reported that the Architect had been interviewed and details arranged with regard to the final plans and he would proceed to work on these.

The Secretary gave details of a lecture he had attended regarding the garage business of Elyth Society and it was agreed that the proposed Car Showroom be provided and let to the C.W.S. or some other car salesman.

Balance Sheet.

The Secretary gave a verbal report upon the Balance Sheet results for the half year pointing out that it was a 27 week period and that Highley losses had been incorporated. He recommended that the £5000 Rolling Stock provision last half year be brought back into the accounts and that would allow for a 10d dividend with no provision for tax liability on this Balance Sheet. He explained in detail the tax provision requirements which were approximately £40,000 and of which we had £31,500. This left £8,500 to find but it was probable that the reserve was overstated by £2,500 Betterment Levy. In addition the loss at Highley of £7,600 would reduce our tax commitment by £2,000 which left a balance of £4,000 to find. He recommended that a dividend of 10d in the £ be paid with 6d in the £ to Highley members and that the £4,000 required for tax be carried forward to next half year. This was approved and thanks were expressed to the Secretary.

Committee.

Apologies were received of Mr. F. Mills and Mr. G.A. Phillips for next weeks meeting.

3rd October, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 3rd October, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and apologies were received from Messrs. F. Mills and G.A. Phillips.

Minutes.
Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Grocery.
R.P.M. on Cigarettes. A report was received from the C.W.S. as to the National position and the Secretary reported that there was no change locally as far as could be seen and it was generally felt that the C.W.S. policy of cut price cigarettes should be continued for the time being.

Education.
It was noted that it was very difficult to get to Leicester for 9.30 a.m. and the delegation withdrew.

Petrol Filling Station.
A report from the Architect was read and received with interest.
A number of questions were asked and it was felt that the Chemists shop should proceed with urgency.

Social Club.
It was noted that the Appeal against the refusal of Planning Permission for a Social Club at Wilton Avenue would be heard on the 17th October. The Council Case was read and the Secretary expressed considerable doubt as to the successful outcome of the Appeal.

Balance Sheet.
Although the Auditor had not yet completed, there was no adverse alteration in the Balance Sheet and a dividend of 10d was confirmed.
Copies of the proposed Management Committee's report were provided, read and approved.

Investments.
Consequential upon the reduction in the Bank Rate the C.W.S. notified various interest rate deductions on their investments.
It was noted the Messrs. Surrey Textiles were offering 6% for loans but no recommendation was made.

Credit Trading.
Provident Clothing Club. A letter from the C.W.S. stated that they were hoping to obtain a 3% discount from the Provident Clothing Club if the trade of Societies joining the scheme reach £125 million.

Highley.
Two quotations were received for repairs and decorations but they were not comparable and investigation would be made. It was asked that the heating problem should be dealt with soon.

Investment Grant.
Dairy. It was reported that a cheque for £1,917 had been received, an Investment Grant upon £7,668 of Plant and Machinery installed in the Dairy in the last three months of 1967.

Reports.
Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.
Resolved that a Dividend Draft for £5,200 be approved.

Bakery.
The C.W.S. Bakery Manager had suggested cut-price schemes for wrapped white sliced bread in which he would give 50% discount instead of the usual 12½% if the Society would cut the price by 3d. Mr. D.I. John was in favour and the scheme was approved.

Hours and Wages.
N.U.C.O. The Secretary gave a long explanation of the new Productivity Scale which was operative from the 1st April based upon the comparison of sales at September 1968 with September 1967 and the comparison of net profit. He gave a number of examples of how the scheme would work stating that there were two decreases and increases varying between £3 and £33. A long discussion on the Board's intentions last June took place and the minute was reread. It was eventually resolved that the Merit Awards and plusages should continue except that those plusages due to sales decreases over the past three half years should gradually be absorbed in the scales. In effect the Personal Standard Salary would be calculated, the increase or decrease operated, and the present merit award added finally. The President took little part in the discussion except by way of explanation.

President.

10th October 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 10th October, 1968.

Minutes.
Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Grocery.
R.P.M. on Cigarettes. The Secretary reported that the cigarette kiosk sales were 30% up last week following 28% up the week before, most of the increase being in the Worcester Street kiosk. The question of service in Oxford Street was considered and it was felt that it was not so good and the stock was more restricted.

Social Club.
Details were given of the conference with the Solicitors and Architect regarding our Appeal Case for the Social Club on Wilton Avenue. Various items were mentioned by members of the Board which the Secretary would pass on to the Solicitors.

Dairy.
The final payment for the installation of the Milk Storage Tank in the sum of £272.18. 4d was approved.

Nursery Land.
Severminister advisers felt that the application for planning permission was somewhat early in view of the fact that the Corporation had already approved 1,300 houses for that part of Franche.

Central Premises.
Central Block. A letter from the Town Clerk said that they were investigating the feasibility of pedestrianisation of the Central Block and they would be calling in surveyors to discuss the redevelopment with major traders.

Hours and Wages.
A joint statement by the Co-operative Union and the Wages Board said that they were examining the possibility of a productivity or efficiency exercise in retail Societies.

Investments.
The Secretary gave a brief report upon the scheme of Escalator Loans and promised further details at a later date.

Grocery.
The Grocery Manager reported that Mr. J. Thomas was leaving the branch management of Lickhill Road and the only employee he could find was Mr. J. Finnon aged 25 years with little experience. This appointment was approved subject to the Secretary interviewing Mr. Finnon.

Reports.
Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Central Premises.
It was reported that Mr. T. Clegg, Caretaker, was now 65 years of age and it was agreed that his employment be continued for a further twelve months.

Highley.
The Secretary reported that a typewriter and electric fire appeared to be missing at Highley Branch according to the Branch Manager and further investigation would be made.

Dairy.
Questions were asked regarding the debt by F. Key and the Secretary gave details.

Footwear.
At this point Mr. E. W. Harvey retired and Mr. E. W. Waldron was appointed to the Chair. The Secretary provided a report upon the departmental results saying that there was time to give consideration to one department and the stock problems. In the report it was stated that the stock was £14,144 whereas last November it said that it was not to be more than £12,000. The minute of November was reread as was the April report. After much detailed discussion it was finally agreed that Mr. E. W. Harvey should be interviewed by the Sub-committee on Friday, 11th October at 7 p.m.

17th October, 1968.

President. 
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 17th October, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and all members were present.

Before the meeting commenced Mr. E.H. Harvey stated that he would not be seeking nomination at the Quarterly Meeting on the 28th October next. He said that he had always tried to do his best and had enjoyed every minute in office.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Nursery Land.

The Secretary reported that he had had a meeting with Severnminster officials and Mr. G. Perrin the Architect and that the Appeal against planning refusal might not be successful in view of the number of houses already approved. The Council statement was awaited, together with the Inspector's report upon the previous Appeal concerning the neighbouring acreage. It was agreed that the Secretary should inform them that the verbal sale agreement could not last indefinitely if the appeal was deferred.

Property.

Central Block. It was noted that the meeting with the Surveyors with regard to pedestrianisation might take place on the 30th October.

Grocery.

Lickhill Road. The Secretary had interviewed Mr. J. Finnem and recommended that he be appointed Branch Manager at Lickhill Road.

Highley.

With regard to the items of fixed stock that appeared to be missing it was agreed that the Secretary see Mr. Cox and report back next week.

Hours and Wages.

M.U.C.O. The Hours and Wages Board recommended that in the calculations for Managers Salaries, the fraction of net profit should be taken to the nearest 3d. The Secretary reported that in the September calculations he had taken it to 0.1% and it was agreed that this remain for this year.

Petrol Filling Station.

A letter from the Architects set out their scale of charges which would be 6% of the final figure plus out of pocket expenses. These were accepted.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Social Club.

It was reported that the Appeal against the planning refusal for the Social Club building on Wilton Avenue land had been heard this morning and that we might get the result before Christmas.

Mutuality.

The Secretary provided a written application by the Mutuality Club Collectors for an increase in their wage structure and gave details of Birmingham and Muneaton Societies as comparisons. After considerable discussion in which varying schemes of commission were considered, it was requested that further details of costs and operating areas should be provided on a basis of £190 collected for £14.10. Od, £200 at 6d in the £ and 1/- in the £ over the total of £390. An expenses payment of £1 per week was also suggested. It was felt that canvassing for new customers should consolidate a reasonable wage structure.

Grocery.

Lickhill Road. It was reported that Lickhill Road Grocery had been burgled on Tuesday last and approximately £35 worth of cigarettes and chocolates had been stolen. An insurance claim would be made.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 17th October, 1968.

Footwear.

At this point Mr. E.W. Harvey retired so that the Board could consider the Sub-committee report on Footwear stocks. The Sub-committee chairman referred to the Board's decision in November 1967 that the Footwear stock should be not more than £12,000 at September 1968. Mr. Harvey had said that the Board's instructions were not disregarded but he had no excuse to offer. He had given many details of difficulties with deliveries but this had a minor effect upon the problem of high stocks. The Chairman pointed out that the manager had sacrificed one third of his net profit in stock depreciation and he had said he would welcome an independent stockcheck. It was recommended that an independent professional stockcheck should take place in the new year and it was thought that such a stockcheck will be considered by the Board if necessary for other departments.

There was considerable discussion and many points of view were put forward but finally the Board approved the Sub-committee report without a dissentient vote.

President.

The Board noted that Mr. E.W. Harvey was not standing for re-election as President.

25th October, 1968.

President.

Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 24th October, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Alderman H.G. Parker sent apologies for absence.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Nursery Land.

The Agents had deferred the Appeal until January or February next year and this was approved.

Property.

Central Block. It was noted that the Secretary was meeting the Town Council Estate Agent on the 29th October with regard to pedestrianisation.

Jenner's and the Fish Shop. It was reported that Messrs. Healey and Baker were proposing to put in for Planning Permission for the Jenner's property joining with access from Worcester Street, partly through the Fish Shop and partly on Carlton House access. After long discussion it was agreed that we are still interested.

Dairy.

The Solicitors reported that they could get no further with Mr. F. Key without taking proceedings against him. The Secretary reported that he was paying £170 per week and it was agreed that no further action be taken whilst this continued.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 24th October, 1968.

Property.

Prospect Lane. Resolved that the Conveyance for the Prospect Lane Yard in the sum of £12,500 be signed and sealed.

Transport.

Resolved that the Buffet and Presentations of Safe Driving Awards take place on the 15th November in the Restaurant.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

C.W.S.

The delegates were thanked for their reports of the short C.W.S. half-yearly meeting and it was noted that the Rules Revision had been passed.

Mutuality Club.

The Secretary provided a statement showing the weekly collections and earnings of each collector for the year together with a summary of the representatives claim. The present suggestion was:

- £190 collections
- £200 at 6d in the £
- Good Percentage
- All over £390 at 1/- in the £
- Expenses

14. 0. 0.
5. 0. 0.
10. 0.
1. 0. 0.

After considerable discussion and explanation it was resolved that negotiation with the collectors proceed on the basis of the above although it was seen that the main benefit would only be gained by two collectors at the present time.

Hours and Wages.

The Secretary gave details of the half-yearly alterations in the Grocery Branch Managers scales but these were not accepted and it was agreed that the Sub-committee investigate at an early date.

Committee.

The Secretary reported that since Mr. E. Thompson's car was stolen and later found he had incurred repairs and replacements of tools amounting to £35. Mr. Thompson now asked that as he was using the car on Society business, this account should be paid by the Society. In a long discussion in which the question of Insurance, No Claims discount and the age of the car were considered, and following which the Secretary suggested a settlement of £20, the Board agreed that the Society should meet the account in full.

It was agreed that the advice of the Co-operative Insurance Society should be sought in case any future claim arises.

President.

31st October, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 31st October, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. H. B. Preston had apologised for absence.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Committee.

Mr. B. Thompson thanked the Board for their consideration of his car loss problem.

Transport.

It was agreed that Alderman W. Carter and Mr. T. Rush be invited to the Safe Driving Presentation function.

Nursery Land.

A copy of the Council's Case together with the Plans were received.

Property.

Central Block. A surveyor acting for the Town Council had reported upon their plans for the town centre, copies of which had been left, and it was seen that Oxford Street would remain for traffic and that they were looking for rear access from the Fish Shop area. Basically the plan was as required by the Society but it was agreed that the Trade Development department of the Co-operative Union be asked for their advice.

Prospect Lane. It had been verbally stated by the Town Council that the area transferred to the Local Authority was 1578 and not 1687, but it was agreed that we await a written statement in this matter.

Hours and Wages.

Grocery Branch Managers. Resolved that the Grocery Sub-committee be called for the 11th November at 7 p.m.

The Rev. W. A. Robinson.

Notification was received that the Reverend W. A. Robinson, late Grocery Manager, had become engaged to be married.

C.W.S.

Footwear. A letter from the C.W.S. indicated their marketing plans for the Footwear Group which would entail specialisation in five factories and the closure of Leeds factory.

Marketing. An invitation was received for all Branch and Departmental Managers together with Board Members to attend a Regional Marketing meeting on the 19th November at Birmingham and it was agreed that all be invited and three members of the Board volunteered to attend. It was agreed that a coach journey be arranged.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved and the Secretary gave a report from Mr. D. I. John upon the cigarette sales position following the withdrawal of Retail Price Maintenance.

Grocery.

Mr. E. W. Waldron gave a very interesting report upon the Supermarket Conference, praising the C.W.S. speakers and recommending integration in the foods trades.

Following this the Secretary intimated that the integration programme at Franche Branch would probably cost £10,000.

Quarterly Meeting.

The Secretary referred to the Petition received at the Quarterly Meeting asking for meat to be sold at Offore Road. Reports were awaited from Mr. D. I. John and Mr. W. H. Cookson, and further consideration would be given later.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 31st October, 1968.

The Secretary mentioned the nine candidates for the Board of Management and suggested that a letter be sent to them pointing out the non-canvassing Rule. After some discussion this was agreed and it was also agreed that Rule Books be sent to those candidates not now sitting.

During discussion of the Grocery Department it was suggested that a cut-price shop might be considered at Offmore Road.

The Secretary reported that Mr. F. Cox had not given satisfactory replies with regard to the Typewriter and Electric Fire and it was agreed that a further investigation be made.

The Departmental accounts were considered in detail and various items required further investigation. It was agreed that gifts of £25 each be made to Bewdley Street, Horsefair, Stourport, Lister Road and Birchen Coppice Grocery Branch Managers, whose net profits in each case had exceeded the dividend rate. Grocery and Furnishing Sub-committee meetings were required.

The Secretary reported that he wished to take a weeks holiday and it was agreed that no meeting be held next week unless urgent business arose.

President.

Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 14th November, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and apologies by letter were received from Mr. W. Davis, who was in hospital and had undergone an operation for Hernia. He appeared to be cheerful and it was agreed that a letter be sent to him.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Committee.

There seemed to be little possibility of insuring Committee Members personal property against loss when they were on Society business and it was agreed that each case be treated upon its merits.

Transport.

It was stated that 40 people would be attending the Safe Driving presentation including the Chief Superintendent and the Road Safety Officials.

Central Premises.

Contact had been made with the C.W.S. Property Development Department and an official would be visiting Kidderminster tomorrow.

C.W.S. Marketing.

It was noted that at the moment only ten people would be attending the Conference and a Minibus only would be required.

Property.

Prospect Lane. It was noted that the compensation claim for the Prospect Lane area remained at £12,500 plus interest.

Highley.

The typewriter had been received but the electric fire was still awaited.

Dry Goods.

Resolved that the Sub-committee meet at 7 p.m. on the 22nd November to consider the Furnishing Department results.

Co-operative Union Ltd.

Resolved that Messrs. W. W. Waldron and B. Thompson attend the Sectional Board meeting on Regional Councils at 3 p.m. on the 26th November, at Birmingham.

Dairy.

Resolved that the Contract with the Hospital Management Committee for Milk Supplies, be signed and sealed.

C.W.S.

The publicity campaign known as "Operation Facelift" was recommended and it was agreed that details be given to the local papers.

Petrol Filling Station.

The Architects Survey and proposals were received including the details for the petrol tanks and generally it was felt that the details could be agreed bearing in mind that the Outline proposal was only agreed by one vote.

Corn and Seed.

The Water Board Inspector notified that a renewal of the water supply was necessary at 5 Bridge Street and our Architects had passed on the request to the local authority who were the landlords.

Property.

Acreley Kings. Details were given of the progress of the tenancy at Acreley Kings by Mr. R. J. Radford and he would commence occupation on the 1st December.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Coal.

A preliminary report was given of the need for mechanization in the coal yard owing to the fact that the British Railways right close the Station. It was agreed that we endeavour to obtain something in writing from the railways.

Wine & Spirits. A further discussion took place on the merits of instant dividend in the Wine Shop and it was felt that Mr. Lea should be met at 7 p.m. next Thursday.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 14th November, 1968.

The Chairman gave a long report of a long meeting.

1. **Grocery Branch Managers.** With regard to Branch Managers' Salaries, it was noted that the National Productivity Scheme was awaited, so consideration was deferred.

2. **Leakages.** It was recommended that the sale of tokens be taken out of the control of the Grocery Branch Manager although no deduction in salary would be made until the position was reviewed in March 1969. It was recommended that an interim stock be taken at Offmore Road. The delivery service at Highley was under detailed consideration and a further report would be made.

3. **Cut Price Store.** No action was recommended at Offmore Road or any other branch.

4. **Butchery Sales.** Prepacked sales of meat at Offmore Road were not recommended but Mr. Cookson was considering reopening the Butchers shop.

5. **R.F.M. Cigarettes.** Sales of cigarettes following the abolition of R.F.M. was steady and no change was recommended.

6. **Franche Road.** Two estimates had been received for these alterations but the question of heating was causing some difficulty.

7. **Tobacco.** It was recommended that Miss B. Rowe's wages be increased to £13 per week.

Resolved that the report be approved and adopted.

Horticulture.

Mr. N. R. Jones reported upon the Sectional Show and the Board approved the Annual Prize Money.

Resolved that the shops be closed on the 25th and 26th December and again on the afternoon of the 27th. The question of opening all day on the 18th December was left to the Secretary to decide nearer the time.

Superannuation.

Out of courtesy the Secretary reported that he was considering advising the Trustees to invest certain sums in Unit Trusts and it was seen that this might handicap the Society's capital accumulation. On the other hand it might reduce the need for the Special Contribution. A meeting of the Trustees would be called.

Central Premises.

Store Detectives. Reports were given of two incidents concerning the Store Detectives.

Mutuality Club.

The Secretary gave a verbal report of his meeting with the Collectors stating that they had rejected the Board's suggested salary scheme. They put forward two compromise suggestions but it was eventually suggested that the original offer stands and later suggested that the 10/- for 90% collected should be increased to £1. The Secretary promised to provide some figures next week.

President.

21st November 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 21st November, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and it was reported that Mr. W. Davis was now out of hospital and was recovering.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Christmas Closing.

It was generally felt by the Managers there was no need to open on the Wednesday afternoon prior to Christmas, and this was approved.

Superannuation.

The Secretary reported that he had had a meeting with the Trustees who were now studying the question of investment in the Co-operative Pension Fund Unit Trust.

Central Premises.

Store Detectives. It was reported that a Mrs. Hivens of Worcester Road had been caught shop lifting on the 15th November but in view of her distraught condition it was felt that the Police be asked not to take action.

It was also reported that Mrs. P. Lawrence who was caught last week was the same Mrs. Lawrence that was caught in April 1967.

Chemist.

Wine and Spirits. Mr. A. B. Laing attended and gave a report upon the prices structure of the wines and spirits in relation to the heavy cuts operated by some competitors. Members stated that Birmingham Society appeared to purchase it at a cheaper rate than we do and it was suggested that Mr. A. B. Laing talks to Mr. Bradley their Manager. Mr. Laing could not recommend Instant Dividend so no action was taken.

Mutuality Collectors.

The Secretary provided comparisons of the Mutuality Club Representatives claims and the Society's offers which showed that their claims varied between 22% and 35%, but our offers averaged 52%. After a good discussion it was agreed that the Secretary proceed with the negotiations on these lines.

Education.

Resolved that the Annual Management Development Grant be paid to the Co-operative Union this time in the sum of £23. 2. Od.

Investments.

Various reports and Balance Sheets were received.

Highley.

The certificate from the Registrar officially terminated Highley Society.

Three tenders were received for decorating and repairs at Highley Branch and it was resolved that the lowest tender in the sum of £417. 10. Od, by Mr. J. Brookes, be accepted.

Grocery.

It was noted that Mr. John and the Secretary were to visit Leeds to see some Grocery Fixtures.

Central Premises.

It was reported that two Land Commission Officials were visiting the Society to talk over the Worcester Street proposed traffic entrance.

Social Club.

A letter from the Solicitors stated that the Appeal against Planning Refusal had been dismissed by the Minister and the Secretary asked for the Board's views as to the next step. After some discussion it was agreed that the Club Committee be informed that we had done all we could and it was now necessary to give the Club a firm notice to quit. It was said that we would still be willing to assist financially if they solve the problem themselves.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 21st November, 1968.

Butchery.
Resolved that a Frozen Food Cabinet costing £416, be purchased for the Central Butchery from Carter Refrigeration Limited.

Reports.
Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.
Resolved that letters of sympathy be sent to Mr. D. Bryant and Mr. T. Allen who were away ill.
Various reports were given by delegates to the Co-operative Party meeting, Horticultural Prizegiving and the Merchandising Conference.

Dairy.
The Secretary reported that Mr. F. J. Key was in trouble again with his cheques and it was felt that cash must be collected in future. If the cash was not there on Saturday morning no milk will be delivered.

Dry Goods.
Mr. I. R. Webb expressed regret at non attendance at the meeting tomorrow night.

Chemists.
Alderman Parker expressed thanks to Mr. Laing for a very quick service in replacing a lense for a visitor to the town.

President.

28th November, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 28th November, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. W. Davis was absent. He sent a letter saying that he had got over the operation but the Doctor thought he had a little heart trouble. Sympathy and regret would be expressed.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Mutuality Collectors.

The Secretary stated that the Collectors had put forward their fourth claim which amounted to £14. 5. 8d per week based upon last year, an average of £11. 5. 8d each. This was based upon -

- £14. 10. 0d for the first £150,
- 6d in the £ for the next £150,
- 9d in the £ for over.

After some discussion the Board felt this was too high and it was resolved that their last offer be reiterated. It was agreed that if this is accepted they would still receive the U.S.D.A.W. awards and it would be retrospective from the 11th November.

Dairy.

It was noted that a cheque for £170 was still outstanding from Mr. F. J. Key.

C.W.S.

Details were received of the 1969 meeting dates.

Hours and Wages.

The local U.S.D.A.W. Secretary wrote asking for views regarding his members pressure for two Wednesday openings only before Christmas. The Secretary had replied that this was against the Agreement and the Board noted and approved the opinion.

Property.

43 High Street, Stourport on Severn. The Betterment Levy on 49 High Street, Stourport on Severn had been demanded in the sum of £503. 4. 6d and it was agreed that this be paid.

Corn and Seed.

Notice was received from the Town Clerk to terminate the tenancy of 9/10 Bridge Street, but they were willing to grant a further Lease for three years at an increased rent. There was some question about the terms of years but it was agreed that the matter be negotiated.

Property.

Lister Road. There was some question with regard to the external finish of the Facia and this had been taken up with the Architects who will inspect the premises.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved. It was felt that the two departmental reports were too elaborate and the Secretary promised to make some suggestions next week.

Dry Goods.

Furnishing. The Chairman gave a report of the recent meeting and he elaborated upon the Manager's difficulties in relation to the old building and staff shortages. The Secretary had suggested an independent survey by Messrs. Harold Whitehead and Partners, Management Consultants, and after considerable discussion this was unanimously approved. The Consultants would make a free preliminary survey and they would be asked to meet the Board.

-over-
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 28th November, 1968.

Co-operative Union Ltd.

Regional Committee. The delegates gave a report on the inaugural meeting to set up the West Midlands Joint Regional Committee which would take the place of the District and Sectional Councils. The first meeting would be called for the 28th January and two delegates would be needed including the Chief Official.

Butchery.

Mr. Cookson reported that he could not staff Offmore Road at the present time and it was suggested that perhaps the Mobile Shop might give a service in the area.

Staff.

Resolved that Christmas gifts be made to the staff of £1 for full-time and 10/- for part-time. The question as to who is part-time to be governed by the S.E.T. regulations.

Development.

The question of a five-year plan for development was raised and discussed and the Secretary was requested to give some thought to this and to prepare a report dealing with the needs, and the possibilities of finance.

President.

5th December, 1968.

Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 5th December, 1968.

Minutes.

The President occupied the Chair and all members were present. Many members welcomed Mr. W. Davis back after his operation.

Mutuality Club.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

The Secretary reported that the Collectors had accepted the second and final offer made by the Society somewhat reluctantly, although it meant an average of £1.15. 8d increase for each collector.

Dairy.

It was noted that the cheque for £770 was still outstanding.

Hours and Wages.

A letter from the U.S.D.A.W. Secretary did not agree with our views concerning the Wednesday opening before Christmas but as no questions were asked it was resolved that the matter lie on the table.

Dry Goods.

It was reported that Messrs. Harold Whitehead and Partners representatives would be consulting with the Secretary on the 16th December.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 5th December, 1968.

Butchery.
Mr. Cookson had stated that it would be difficult for the Mobile Shop to service areas around Offmore Road at the time meat was required and he had suggested that we might consider re-opening Offmore Road Butchery with Mr. Quinney of the Mobile Shop in charge together with a youth who was available whilst Mr. Quinney was on his round. After some discussion this was approved.

Co-operative Party.
Resolved that Mr. G.A. Phillips and Alderman H.G. Parker attend the Co-operative Party Conference on the 4th to the 7th of April, 1969.

Grocery.
Mr. D.I. John requested leave of absence on holiday for three weeks in July/August and after some discussion this was approved.

Reports.
The Secretary provided a new statement on the reverse side of the Committee Sheet which gave comparisons of various weekly figures but not so much detail as in the individual reports. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the new report be continued for a trial period.

Highley.
It was reported that the missing Electric Fire had now been received from Mr. F. Cox.

Mortgage.
Resolved that as all money had been paid on the Mortgage held by Mrs. Finns, the Deed of Release be signed and sealed.

Property.
Areley Kings old Butchery. Resolved that the signing of the Tenancy Agreement with Mr. R.W.J. Badger for the old Areley Kings Butchery Shop be approved.

Mr. A. T. Danks.
A report from Mr. A. T. Danks, late President of the Society, expressed best wishes to the Board which were reciprocated.

Property.
Central Block. The Secretary reported that two officials from the Land Commission had visited the Society and the whole concept of the Central area development had been discussed. They appeared to favour rear access through part of the Fish Shop and they pointed out that a Compulsory Purchase Order could be applied. During a long discussion the Secretary elaborated upon the proposed new plans for the Town Centre redevelopment and the view was expressed that before these plans came to fruition it would be necessary to provide the Furnishing Department with a small warehouse to stop goods coming through the front door. The problem was left to Management for consideration and the Secretary was thanked for his explanation of the proposed town plan.

President.

12th December, 1968.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 12th December, 1968.
The President occupied the Chair and Mr. I.R. Webb sent apologies for absence as he was not well.

Minutes.
Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Co-operative Party.
Alderman Parker stated that he would not be able to attend the Co-operative Party Annual Conference and Mr. C. Walters was appointed in his place.

Grocery.
Mr. D. I. John gave written details of the precautions he took to safeguard the good of the department while he was away on holiday for three weeks.

Furnishing.
A letter from Mr. J. Minett stated that it was essential that he has a rear access and a warehouse. His problem would be to staff it and pay for it. Resolved that the Sub-committee meet him after Christmas and in the meantime outline planning permission be applied for a warehouse on the Wilton Avenue land.

Grocery.
Two reports from the Public Health Inspector complained of the toilet arrangements at Lister Road and lack of heating at Offshore Road. Mr. John had been requested to put these matters right.

Property.
It was reported that Booton's Butchery shop in Blackwell Street was for sale and there was some possibility of obtaining access to the rear of our properties next door but one. The position was being investigated.

Finance.
Brief details were given of Sale and Lease Back arrangements so that capital for expansion might be available. Although the Secretary thought this was not yet necessary he was exploring the possibilities for future reports.

Reports.
Resolved that the weekly reports be approved.

Central Premises.
Drapery. The Secretary reports that a man had been caught trying to break into the side windows of the Drapery department. The Secretary was requested to consider some method of safeguarding the entry.
Furnishing. It was reported that two men had stolen £120 from the Ground Floor till of the Furnishing. One had kept the attention of the assistant whilst the other went to the back of the store and rifled the till. It appeared that two other shops in the town had been treated in a like manner.
Shoplifting. It was reported that a Mrs. Jones of Bewdley had been caught shoplifting by the Butchery manager at the Central and it was resolved that letters of commendation be sent together with a Voucher for £1. 1 Od each to Mr. W.B. Wakelam and Mr. D. Watkins.

Committee.
Resolved that the meeting next week commence at 7.30 p.m., and that the Committee Christmas Dinner be arranged for January at the Lyttleton Arms.

Grocery.
Franche Road. A report was given of the progress of the proposed alterations at Franche Road. It was thought that pressure should be put upon the builders to speed up the progress.

Employees.
It was agreed that a letter of sympathy and a bottle of sherry be sent to Mr. N. Daniels who recently was in hospital and it was also agreed in principle that such action should be taken for any permanent employee.

Footwear.
An article in the magazine Management and Marketing was mentioned in which the writer gave his opinion of the Footwear Trade. In particular lower rates of stockturn than our target had been recommended and the Secretary was requested to have another look at the problem with a view to detailed consideration at the next Sub-committee meeting.

19th December, 1968.

President.
Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 19th December, 1968.

The President occupied the Chair and Mr. I.R. Webb sent apologies for absence. It was reported that he was suffering from blood pressure and the Doctor would not allow him out.

It was noted that Mr. G. Allbut was in hospital under observation for suspected ulcer.

Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

Finance.

It was noted that the C.W.S. were also prepared to make arrangements for sale and lease back on Transport vehicles.

Central Premises.

It was suggested and approved that the down pipes in the Oxford Street entry be painted with the non-drying paint used at the Dairy.

Furnishing.

Mr. J. Minett gave a written report on the time factors relating to the stolen cash and after some discussion it was agreed that large sums should be under lock and key earlier.

Central Premises.

Shoplifting. A letter of thanks was received from Mr. W. B. Wakelam, Central Grocery.

Committee.

A provisional booking had been made for the 16th January at the Lyttleton Arms but the Secretary thought the prices were high. Resolved that Clee Hall, Cockley, be investigated.

Transport.

Thanks were received from Mr. N. Daniels for the bottle of sherry and good wishes.

Dry Goods.

Resolved that a Dry Goods Sub-committee be called for the 10th January at 7 p.m. to consider the Management Magazine article.

Co-operative Union Ltd.

It was noted that the first meeting of the new Regional Council would be held on the 28th January and it was resolved that Mr. R. W. Waldron and the Secretary be appointed to attend. It was agreed also that Mr. P. Huddiman be suggested for Secretary.

M.C.C.F.

Resolved that votes be recorded for the retiring members in the biennial election.

Social Club.

Plans were received from Severminster Developments concerning a project in Mill Street which they thought might be of interest to the Social Club for Club Room premises.

Petrol Station.

Plans had been received for the proposed Petrol Service Station and it was agreed that the full Board consider this on the 2nd January at 6.30.

Property.

Prospect Lane. Our Solicitors had written a strong letter to the Town Clerk asking for payment for the purchase of Prospect Lane property.

Central Premises.

The first steps had been taken in relation to the engagement of Management Consultants to look at the Dry Goods Departments. They would meet the Dry Goods Managers on Monday, 13th January for preliminary discussions. It was agreed that they should not bother with the branch.

Reports.

Resolved that the weekly reports be approved. A Dairy report was provided stating that a milk leakage of 340 gallons had occurred due to inattention. After considerable discussion it was felt that someone should be in attendance whilst the milk was being transferred and there was some thought as to the responsibility of the tanker driver. Further discussions with Mr. F. Hunt would take place.

Path Finders.

Various members reported with pleasure upon their visit to the Pathfinders Group at Birchen Coppice.

Committee.

Resolved that no meeting be held next week unless necessary.

The Secretary reported that the first £50 cheque for replacement of the £170 cheque had again "bounced". After long discussion it was agreed that the Secretary insist on seeing Mr. F. Key within two weeks, as the Board were contemplating a certain action.

Shoplifting. It was reported that a girl named Winifred Kerrigan had been caught shoplifting and the police had been notified.

Resident