

MR. SILKIN GOES TO STEVENAGE

A row blows up on the home front as Stevenage residents give the Government a "hands off our homes" warning. Stevenage is to be transformed from a country area into a bustling new town of 50,000 people. Part of the Greater London project which includes a 230 million pound rail expansion scheme, Stevenage's outcry against the scheme brings this explanation in a Pathe interview with Mr. Silkin Labour's Planning Minister.

MR. SILKIN

"Today is a momentous day in the history of Stevenage. Today we are taking the first big step towards the implementation of the Greater London Plan. The Government propose to place the whole of its resources behind the building of this new town."

Local families gave Mr. Silkin plenty of questions to answer. How some residents felt about the plan, he heard from 70 year old widow, Mrs. Day.

MRS DAY

Taking all kinds of comment in his stride, Mr. Silkin had this to say in reply.

"The realization of plans will involve a certain amount of displacement but it is the intention of the Government to make available alternative accommodation for everybody when it will be necessary to displace."