

Tuesday, 8th May, 1979.

The Gilt Edged market opened steady in short-dated stocks and $\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$ higher in longs. However following the increased prices seen overall in the run-up to the General Election, investors both home and foreign appeared content to wait and see for the time being. As a result little buying materialised, and with some pre-Election positions to be unwound, sellers came in during the early part of the morning. This in fact set the tone for the day and, although business was never heavy, sellers predominated, and the market continued to ease off slowly until the close. By then short-dated stocks had lost up to $\frac{3}{8}$ while longs were about $\frac{1}{8}$ easier.

The Industrial market opened firm on the first day of the new account. Prices soon eased on lack of institutional demand and drifted lower throughout the day. Stores were mixed. Mothercare were dull on lower than expected final figures. Marks & Spencer were easier on a satisfactory profit announcement but marginally disappointing dividend increase. Oils and Banks were weak on profit-taking, following useful rises during the last account. Kaffirs were firm in line with the higher bullion price.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 551.8 (down 6.8)

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| <u>Bank</u> | Sales | £ | 41,007,000 |
| | Profit | | NIL |
| | Net Sales on balance | £ | 41,007,000 |