

Monday, 17th March, 1980.

The Gilt Edged market was very quiet at the opening. The medium and long-dated issues were unchanged and steady but one or two of the short-dated bonds were showing losses of $\frac{1}{16}$ - $\frac{1}{8}$ following the further rise in the American prime rate announced after hours on the previous Friday evening. Business remained on a very small scale throughout the day and there was little or no activity in the medium and long-dated issues. Short-dated bonds did encounter some selling and prices in this section fell by $\frac{3}{16}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$. Little change was seen during the afternoon but the short-dated bonds recovered about $\frac{1}{16}$ of their early losses and the whole market closed looking reasonably steady in advance of the announcement of the trade figures for February, at 3.30 p.m.

The Industrial market opened slightly lower, extending the recent easier tone. Prices continued to drift throughout the day on renewed selling and, with little or no buying interest, all sections closed at the worst levels ahead of the February trade figures. Oil shares were a particularly weak feature on continued concern of a possible further tax on profits, while Property, Engineering and Banking issues also moved lower. Kaffir and Mining financial shares were weak on the sharply lower gold fix price, while B.T.R. improved after the better than expected final figures.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 433.5 (down 6.4)

BANK

Sales	£ 4,409,000
Purchases	£ 895,000
Nett Sales on balance	£ 3,514,000