2. 4.80

NOTE FOR WEDNESDAY MEETING

a

Markets: 26 March 1980 to 1 April 1980

Money

The market continued short on each day of the week, the main unfavourable factors being the repayment of previous market advances and the unwinding of a previous purchase of Commercial bills by the Bank, together with a number of more minor technical factors. Net tax payments were a significant tightening factor on Friday, but in general, with the revenue season now drawing to a close, the Exchequer's net position has tended to favour the market. Extremely large to moderate help has been necessary on each day, taking the form of purchases of Treasury and Local Authority bills outright and of purchases of Treasury, Local Authority and Eligible Bank bills for resale both before and after the April make-up date. The Bank has also lent overnight at MLR every day, while additional relief for market pressures has been supplied by the postponement to 16 June of the recall of Special Deposits payable on 8 April.

Interbank rates rose fairly steadily over the week at all maturities, finishing with gains of up to 5/16% at the shorter end and of up to 7/16% at three months and over. The three month rate closed on Tuesday 3/8% up at 18 9/16%.

Rates this morning were slightly firmer.

Eurosterling rates have risen by up to 1/2% over the week, the three month rate finishing 3/8% up at 18 9/16%. The gap between domestic interbank and Eurosterling rates has narrowed slightly.

At the Treasury Bill tender on Friday the average rate of discount rose by 0.0767 to 16.2838.

Local Authority Bonds

Fixed rate one-year bonds were issued at par at $17\ 1/4\%$, unchanged from last week. Following the end of the financial year, total offerings dropped to 13.2 against maturities of 12.35.

Gilts

The market retained its air of cautious optimism ahead of the Budget speech. But initial reaction to the Government's monetary

strategy was uncertain and, with investors holding off, prices fell on Thursday and Friday in this trading. After the weekend, however, when comment on the Budget was more favourable, the market was encouraged by hopes of an early end to the steel strike and prices rose by up to 7/8 at the long end on Monday. Yesterday morning the long tap, 14% Treasury 1996, was reactivated at 50 1/16 and supplies were exhausted at 50 5/16 (5/16 premium). This provoked further gains in longs, but these were later trimmed by profit-taking and the market became much quieter during the afternoon. Over the week as a whole, prices of shorts were little changed while longs recorded net gains of 1/2.

Equities

Prices improved in early trading on Wednesday, but the effect of the Budget speech was to reinforce fears about the economic outlook and, in particular, the prospects for industry. The FT index fell by 12.0 to 423.1 on Thursday with brewery, banking and oil shares particularly weak. The easier tone continued on Friday in very quiet trading. As with gilts, however, sentiment improved after the weekend and by the close yesterday the FT index had recovered to 432.4, an increase of 2.1 over the week.

New Issues

Activity remained subdued with only one new issue being added to the queue: an equity issue of 6 by Warrior Exploration Limited. The queue now totals 77.

(Init. ALC)

Official Stock Transactions and Gilt-Edged Yields

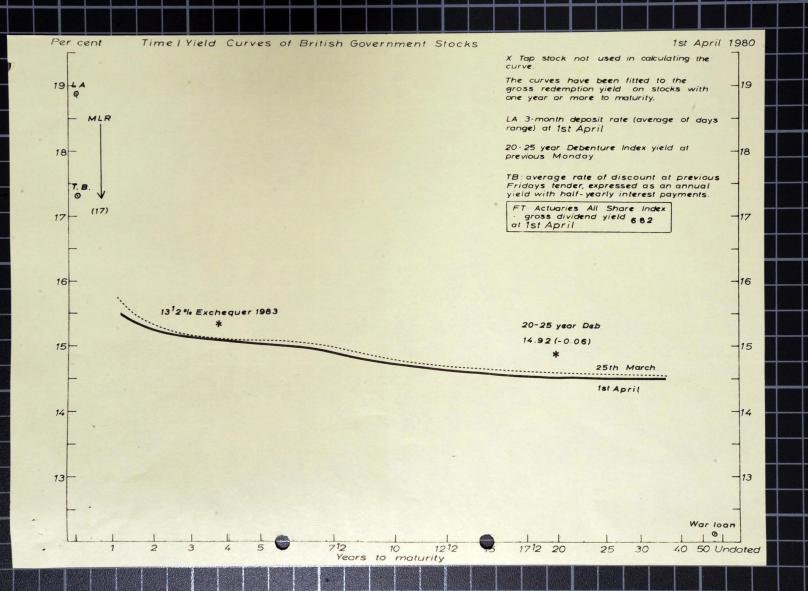
(£ million: sales + , purchases -)

1. Transactions (cash value)

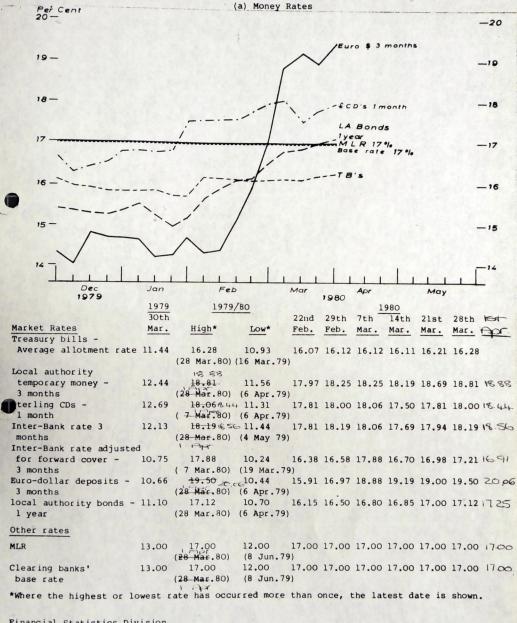
	26.3.80 - <u>1.4.80</u>	Cal.Qtr and Fin. Year to date	21.2.80 to date
Issue Department Purchases/sales			
Next Maturities	-160	- 116	- 211
Other short-dated	+ 12	+ 1	+ 87
	-148	- 115	- 124
Mediums	+ 26.		+ 51
Longs and undated Total Issue Department trans-	+375	+ 351	+ 617
actions	+253	+ 236	+ 544
CRND		_	- 1
Redemptions	- 1		- 292
	+252	+ 236	+ 251

2. Redemption Yields (tax ignored)

	25 March	1 April
11 1/2% Treasury 1981	15.50	15.59
8 1/4% Exchequer 1981	15.40	15.27
12% Treasury 1984	15.05	15.08
13 1/4% Exchequer 1987	14.79	14.61
10% Treasury 1992	14.49	14.40
12 1/4% Exchequer 1999	14.67	14.60
11 1/2% Treasury 2001/04	14.43	14.36
12% Exchequer 2013/17	14.01	14.00
3 1/2% War (Flat Yield)	12.33	12.15



MONEY RATES AND EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATES



Financial Statistics Division,
Public Sector Financing Group,
31st March 1980.

COCHES April
Miss Y. Butcher (4342)

4	NE	W ISSUES OF 3 OR OVER		
Date	Government, etc.	Other Fixed Interest	Convertible Stocks	Others
1980		(excl.Convertibles)		
Current Week (2/4-3/4)				Howden Group Ltd. (rights) (2/4) 5
Week 2 (8/4-11/4)				
Week 3 (14/4-18/4)				The Rugby Portland Cement Company Ltd.(rights) (15/4) 14
•				Linfood Holdings Ltd.(rights) (17/4) 13
				The Martlet Services Group Ltd.(offer for sale)(18/4) 5
Week 4 (21/4-25/4)			North British Properties Ltd. (rights) (23/4) 3	Unitech Ltd. (rights) (22/4) 3
Week 5 (28/4-2/5)				Warrior Exploration Ltd.(rights) (30/4) 6
Week 6 (4-9/5)				Peerless Stampings Ltd. (offer for sale) (7/5) 4
Week 7 (12/5-16/5)			NSS Newsagents Ltd.(rights) (13/5) 4	Carless, Capel & Leonard Ltd. (rights) (15/5) 7
Forthcoming				Oriflame International S.A (Offer for sale) (29/5) 3
				Norcross Ltd. (rights) (27/6) 10
		TOTAL	TOTAL 7	TOTAL 70

*Issues announced:	1977———————————————————————————————————	81.5
	1978 60	959
	1979 162	946
	1980 to date 29	60
*Issues completed	1977143	784
	1978 63	910
	1979150	979
	1980 to date 26	24

*Includes issues of less than 3.

2 April 1980.

