

Wednesday, 9th April, 1980.

The Gilt Edged market was looking reasonably firm at the opening and prices were $\frac{1}{8}$ higher in the shorts and $\frac{1}{4}$ in the medium and long-dated issues; part of this improvement had taken place after hours on the previous evening. The firmer tendency continued throughout the morning and quite a large demand was seen in all sections of the market; in particular, the authorities were able to sell the short-dated tap stock, Exchequer 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1983, at 95 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 95 $\frac{9}{16}$. The firmness in the shorts spread down the list to the long-dated issues and with the jobbers short of stock in this area of the market, prices also improved sharply to show rises of as much as $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ of a point by lunchtime. In spite of some profit-taking during the early part of the afternoon, the market continued to be firm, although the shorts lost $\frac{1}{16}$ - $\frac{1}{8}$ from their best levels, while the long-dated issues ended the day looking almost strong, to close showing rises of as much as $\frac{3}{4}$ of a point in the high coupon stocks.

The Industrial market opened steady but prices soon improved across a broad front as investment interest was encountered in most sectors. This trend was sustained as the market closed around the best levels of the day. After weakness yesterday throughout the Oil sector, most shares were in demand although Siebens Oil and Gas eased initially on further consideration of the recent North Sea drilling report from Marathon Oil. In a quiet Insurance sector, Pearl Assurance were firm following excellent final results but Guardian Royal Exchange eased after disappointing profit figures. Kaffirs were well supported as the bullion moved ahead.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 430.0 (up 3.3)

<u>C.N.D.</u>	Sales		NIL
	Purchases	£	1,922,000
	Nett Purchases on balance	£	1,922,000
<u>BANK</u>	Sales	£	228,817,000
	Purchases	£	12,648,000
	Nett Sales on balance	£	216,169,000