

Friday, 25th April, 1980.

The Gilt Edged market was easier at the opening in all sections following the unfortunate failure of the Americans to release the hostages in Iran, and prices were lower by as much as $\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{3}{8}$ in the short-dated bonds and $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ in the long-dated issues. A certain amount of selling took place at the lower levels and buyers were not unnaturally completely absent. A few half-hearted attempts were made to rally but by lunchtime further falls were seen and prices were lower by as much as $\frac{1}{2}$ at the short end and 1 point in the long-dated issues. Little change was seen during the afternoon and no recovery took place; the market closed the week looking barely steady at or around the lowest levels.

The Industrial market opened lower on the worsening Middle East situation. Jobbers marked prices down on a broad front as a precautionary measure. However, trading was very light on the final day of the account and, after a minor rally during the morning session, prices drifted again to close around the lowest levels. Banking and Insurance issues with large dollar earnings were dull as the value of the currency declined throughout the day on political considerations. Oil shares were initially weak but partially recovered after some investment support for those with large North Sea interests. Kaffirs and other commodity based shares were generally in demand as commodity prices rose strongly.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 426.1 (down 8.7)

BANK

Sales		NIL
Purchases	£	1,328,000
Nett Purchases on balance	£	1,328,000