

Wednesday, 14th May, 1980.

The Gilt Edged market opened firm this morning with prices up to about  $\frac{1}{4}$  above yesterday's close. This enabled the authorities to sell a good amount of the tap stock Exchequer  $13\frac{1}{2}\%$  1992 and then increase their selling price. However, after this initial flurry the market saw little follow through and prices began to ease back during the rest of the morning. This tendency continued towards the end of the afternoon session, and the market finally closed the day up to  $\frac{1}{4}$  down in shorts and  $\frac{3}{8}$  down in longs on balance.

The Industrial market opened better with sentiment aided by a firm showing from Wall Street and bullish news of a new gas find in the North Sea. However, trading conditions were extremely quiet and prices generally tended to ease during the day on lack of interest. North Sea based Oil issues were in demand, led by Shell who confirmed an important gas discovery. Profit-taking was again encountered to halt any significant rises, until further investment support caused fresh gains later in the day. J. Sainsbury improved on further consideration of recent excellent results, which also indicated an increased share of the market. Royal Insurance quarterly figures were marginally disappointing and the shares eased accordingly. Kaffirs were firm on the higher bullion price.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 439.6 (up 2.7)

<u>C.N.D.</u>	Sales		NIL
	Purchases	£	2,525,000
	Nett Purchases on balance	£	2,525,000
<u>BANK</u>	Sales	£	47,252,000
	Purchases	£	36,582,000
	Nett Sales on balance	£	10,670,000