

Monday, 16th March, 1981.

The Gilt Edged market opened quiet and steady with prices, where changed, up to  $\frac{1}{8}$  higher. Conditions remained relatively inactive during the morning but prices in the longer end improved slightly to show rises of  $\frac{1}{4}$  by lunchtime. During the afternoon however demand began to build up again, and the authorities were able to sell a further amount of Exchequer  $12\frac{1}{2}\%$  1990 at  $15\frac{1}{4}$  (15% paid). The market continued firm until the close when prices showed rises of up to  $\frac{1}{2}$ . The February Trade Figures, announced at 3.30, were thought good and generally assisted to maintain the firm trend.

The Industrial market opened steady on the first day of the new account. Prices fluctuated narrowly during the day with selective investment interest helping most sectors to close higher on balance in quiet and featureless trading conditions. Clearing Banks were unchanged although Royal Bank of Scotland were in demand until the shares were suspended during the afternoon at the request of the company. Dealers were speculating on the possibility of an overseas bid for the Williams and Glyn's subsidiary. Engineering shares were slightly better but Guest, Keen and Nettlefold were weak ahead of figures to be announced on Wednesday. Oils were dull following rather unfavourable week-end press comment on the outlook for Oil sales. However, some secondary issues improved after last week's allocation of North Sea exploration licences. Kaffirs were higher in line with the increased gold price.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 478.7 (up 1.5)

<u>C.N.D.</u>	Sales	£	3,606,000
	Purchases		NIL
	Nett Sales on balance	£	3,606,000

<u>BANK</u>	Sales	£	17,529,000
	Purchases	£	18,224,000
	Nett Purchases on balance	£	695,000