

Wednesday, 25th March, 1981.

The Gilt Edged market continued easier today, and although trading was relatively quiet, a little stock continued to be sold by those who found themselves over invested. The market opened slightly easier throughout and tended to drift during the morning so that by lunchtime long-dated stocks were about $\frac{3}{8}$ down. A small two-way trade in the afternoon still saw sellers predominating and shorts closed the day about $\frac{1}{8}$ lower with longs generally up to $\frac{1}{2}$ down.

The Industrial market opened slightly easier, reflecting selective profit-taking after last night's sharp improvement. Prices continued to drift during the day and most sectors closed around the worst levels. The Insurance sector was dull following disappointing final profits from Eagle Star and Prudential Assurance. Although both companies announced increased dividends, the shares were initially flat before making a partial recovery. Food and Store issues extended yesterday's gains on hopes of a brighter economic outlook which might boost turnover. Oil shares remained weak on further suggestion of lower production to counter falling demand. Clearing Banks were steady while Merchant Banks were generally firm. Kleinwort Benson were well supported ahead of tomorrow's annual figures. Lucas Industries were better on favourable comment prior to interim results later this week. Kaffirs were unchanged as the gold price eased marginally.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 507.2 (down 4.5)

<u>C.N.D.</u>	Sales	£ 14,401,000
	Purchases	£ 18,352,000
	Nett Purchases on balance	£ 3,951,000
<u>BANK</u>	Sales	NIL
	Purchases	£ 484,000
	Nett Purchases on balance	£ 484,000