

Tuesday, 31st March, 1981.

The Gilt Edged market opened steady with the better news from Poland offsetting the news of the assassination attempt on the U.S. President. During the morning a certain amount of buying took place and prices edged forward throughout the list. By lunchtime short-dated stocks were up to  $\frac{3}{8}$  better with longs about  $\frac{3}{8}$  higher. In the early part of the afternoon prices again improved slightly but this improvement was later lost and the market closed quietly steady at around the lunchtime levels. The 2% Index Linked stock opened and closed at  $\frac{1}{8}$  below the issue price of 100 (35% paid). Turnover in this stock was very small.

The Industrial market opened steady. Prices improved during the day as institutional buyers appeared, encouraged by the easing of tension in Poland. Most sectors closed around the best levels. Building and Property shares remained firm on continuing hopes of lower interest rates in the near future. Clearing Banks were in demand, while Insurance issues were unchanged prior to several major companies reporting final results tomorrow. In a strong Paper sector, Bunzl Pulp were higher on better than expected profits and an increased dividend. Bowater hardened on revived bid talk. Leading Electricals were generally firm and G.E.C. showed further improvement following yesterday's confirmation of a large overseas contract. Engineering shares were better with Lucas Industries well supported on recovery prospects after last week's announcement of a large loss and more redundancies. Kaffirs were easier in line with the bullion price.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 525.4 (up 6.6)

<u>C.N.D.</u>	Sales	£ 12,466,000
	Purchases	NIL
	Nett Sales on balance	£ 12,466,000
<u>BANK</u>	Sales	£ 20,678,000
	Purchases	£ 18,317,000
	Nett Sales on balance	£ 2,361,000