

Friday, 21st August 1981

The Gilt Edged market opened quietly steady, with a firm sterling rate and better news about the rail negotiations, being counterbalanced by an easier trend in U.S. bonds. Prices in longs showed no change throughout the morning although shorts improved slightly following the publication of the R.P.I. figure. During the afternoon some buying was seen of the short tap Treasury 11½% 1985 which enabled the authorities to sell a moderate amount of stock. The market closed the day quietly firm with rises of 1/8 - 1/4 throughout the list.

The Industrial market opened steady lacking a decided trend. Prices however tended to drift marginally easier throughout the day more on lack of interest than any real selling pressure and most sections closed slightly lower on balance. Grand Mets. continued a nervous market on further reflection on the possible purchase of International Hotels from PanAm while Shell were on offer after yesterday's 2nd Quarter figures. Kaffir issues lacked a decided trend on the gold fix price while United Scientific were again active on good investment interest.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 559.9 (down 0.8)

C.N.D.

Sales and Purchases NIL

BANK

Sales	£80,954,000
Purchases	NIL
Net Sales on balance	£80,954,000