

Wednesday, 17th February, 1982.

With U.S. bonds having recovered from their original sharp decline and closed well up on the day, the Gilt-Edged market opened firm with rises in the longs of up to $\frac{1}{2}$. Business remained at a low ebb, but prices continued to edge up for most of the day, particularly in the longer end, urged on more by shortage of stock than by any great pressure of demand. Shorts closed the day slightly below the best levels but showing rises of up to $\frac{3}{8}$, while longs improved by up to $1\frac{1}{8}$.

The Industrial market opened better, encouraged by the strong overnight recovery on Wall Street. Most sectors maintained their initial progress as prices fluctuated narrowly at the higher levels in rather subdued business conditions. Leading 'blue-chip' companies were firm with I.C.I. improving prior to next week's figures. Clearing Banks were marginally higher ahead of the forthcoming trading reports, while Insurance issues were well supported following favourable press comment. In a strong Paper sector, Bowater continued to attract buyers on 'dawn raid' speculation. Stores, Breweries and Foods were generally better throughout on selective investment interest. Kaffirs eased in line with the lower gold price.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 562.8 (up 5.6)

<u>C.N.D.</u>	Sales and Purchases		NIL
<u>BANK</u>	Sales	£	7,815,000
	Purchases		NIL
	Nett Sales on balance	£	7,815,000