

Wednesday, 3rd March, 1982.

The Gilt-Edged market has been very quiet today, with such buying as there has been over the past few days, drying up today. However sellers were absent also and as a result the market remained virtually unchanged throughout the day. Prices had been somewhat easier after hours yesterday on the news of the cut in the oil price but, although the market still opened marginally easier this morning, these losses were soon recovered and the market showed small mixed changes at the close. There was a small demand for Index-Linked 2001 stock and the authorities were able to supply stock at 36.

The Industrial market opened slightly better with investors still encouraged by the prospect of lower domestic interest rates. Most sectors fluctuated narrowly during the day in extremely subdued trading conditions, closing easier on balance. Oil issues were active following yesterday's cut in the price of North Sea crude oil. Ultramar improved on excellent annual profits and the absence of a rights issue which had been widely rumoured. Engineering shares were well supported on consideration of cheaper fuel costs that could assist an industrial recovery. Among Financials, Clearing Banks were unchanged, while Discount Houses hardened. Insurance stocks were marginally higher, although General Accident eased despite final results in line with analysts' estimates. The Building and Property sectors were quietly firm on hopes of a brighter business outlook helped by falling money rates. Kaffirs were dull as the gold price declined.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.)                      556.4 (down 1.4)

C.N.D.              Sales and Purchases                                      NIL

<u>BANK</u>	Sales	£	9,179,000
	Purchases	£	8,810,000
	Nett Sales on balance	£	369,000