

Wednesday, 17th October, 1979.

The Gilt Edged market opened the period showing gains of up to $\frac{1}{2}$ a point. This was largely due to the announcement after the close of trading last night, of plans to sell a smaller than expected amount of the Government's holding of British Petroleum shares and also the news of the backing by union leaders of British Leyland's redundancy plans. The authorities were able to sell a reasonable amount of stock. Following this good investment demand, prices eased slightly by mid-morning and continued quietly to close the period at or about the best levels.

The Industrial market opened slightly higher, extending the firmer tone seen late yesterday afternoon following the announcement on the B.P. sale due in the near future. Prices, however, after improving initially, failed to maintain the best levels on lack of follow through, with most sections closing marginally higher on balance. E.M.I. were unchanged after the rejection of the Thorn bid, while Charter Consolidated returned after suspension around the previous levels. Kaffir shares eased during the day in line with the lower gold fix price.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 473.2 (up 0.7)

<u>C.N.D.</u>	Sales		Nil
	Purchases	£	274,000
	Nett Purchases on balance	£	274,000
<u>Bank</u>	Sales	£	137,842,000
	Purchases		Nil
	Nett Sales on balance	£	137,842,000