

Monday, 18th February, 1980.

The Gilt Edged market was looking easier in all sections at the opening and prices, where changed, were $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}\%$ below the previous Friday's closing levels. Part of this fall had taken place after hours following the announcement of the rather indifferent trade figures and news of the rise in the Federal Fund's rate in the U.S.A. Business was on a fairly small scale throughout the morning and a few cheap buyers were seen at the lower levels and, as the jobbers were short of stock, part of the early losses were soon regained and by lunchtime the market was only looking $\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$ below the opening prices. Further improvement was seen in the short-dated bonds during the afternoon and this section of the market closed looking reasonably steady, either $\frac{1}{8}$ above or below the opening levels, while the long-dated issues remained unchanged, about $\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$ down on balance.

The Industrial market opened sensitively following last Friday's setback. Prices tended to drift lower initially on small routine selling but most sections inclined to rally towards the close, around the overnight levels. Engineering shares were a dull sector on the steel situation, while Store and Banking issues recovered in later trading. I.C.I. provided an isolated firm feature ahead of their figures due in the near future, while Kaffir shares fluctuated marginally in extremely subdued trading.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 462.5 (down 0.1)

BANK

Sales	£	352,000
Purchases		NIL
Nett Sales on balance	£	352,000