

Friday, 13th March, 1981.

The Gilt Edged market was quietly firm at the opening and, where changed, prices were slightly higher than the previous night's closing levels. Once again there was quite a large demand for the new Government medium-dated tap stock, Exchequer 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1990 (15% paid) and the Bank was able to sell quite a large amount of stock at 15 $\frac{3}{8}$. The firmness in this area of the market spread down the list to the long-dated issues. Longs had improved by lunchtime to show rises of $\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{3}{8}$. Short-dated bonds were once again rather neglected and had a mixed appearance. The market eased slightly during the afternoon, on profit-taking, at the end of a very active week, and by 3.30 p.m. nearly all the early gains had been lost. The market closed the week looking reasonably steady but about $\frac{1}{16}$ - $\frac{1}{8}$ below the opening levels.

The Industrial market opened slightly better, responding to initial buying interest for next week's new account. However, this was not sustained and selling on the last day of the current account caused prices to ease, closing marginally lower on balance. Leading Oil issues were weak, encountering profit-taking after yesterday's widespread improvement on the British Petroleum and Shell results. Tunnel Holdings were sharply higher following the takeover bid worth £71 million by T. W. Ward. Other Building shares were better as dealers speculated on the possibility of another bid within the sector. Shipping stocks were in demand on rumours of a broker's circular taking a favourable view of trading prospects. Stores were generally dull on the bearish outlook for future business conditions. Kaffirs hardened in line with the increased bullion price.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 476.8 (down 4.2)

<u>C.N.D.</u>	Sales	£ 2,148,000
	Purchases	NIL
	Nett Sales on balance	£ 2,148,000
<u>BANK</u>	Sales	£ 26,342,000
	Purchases	£ 21,481,000
	Nett Sales on balance	£ 4,861,000