

Friday, 20th March, 1981.

The Gilt Edged market opened steady this morning with relatively little initial dealing. However a certain amount of buying soon developed in the long end and prices in this sector quickly responded, while shorts and mediums remained relatively neglected. The shortage of stock in the longs continued to make itself felt throughout the morning and prices at one time were showing rises of up to  $\frac{3}{4}$ . By lunchtime however the market was below the best levels with shorts around yesterday's closing prices, and longs about  $\frac{1}{2}$  up. There was little further activity during the afternoon and prices closed around the lunchtime level.

The Industrial market opened steady following the recent very firm tone. Prices, after hesitating initially, rallied strongly during the day as buyers found stock in short supply, with most sections closing at or around the better levels. Food, Electrical and Building shares were again in demand, while Oil issues continued to be neglected. I.C.L. returned following suspension at 56p, 9p lower on the Government's aid programme, while Midland Bank moved ahead after the slightly better than expected final figure. Kaffir shares were generally unchanged on the gold fix price.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.)      500.6 (+ 3.9)

C.N.D.	Sales	£ 1,657,000
	Purchases	NIL
	Nett Sales on balance	£ 1,657,000

<u>BANK</u>	Sales	£ 17,990,000
	Purchases	£ 17,971,000
	Nett Sales on balance	£ 19,000