

Tuesday, 24th March, 1981.

The Gilt Edged market was still settling down today after its recent strength and activity. In initial dealings prices were generally easier throughout the list, and a certain amount of selling came in, probably from those who had overinvested in the last few days. By lunchtime shorts were up to  $\frac{1}{8}$  down and longs about  $\frac{3}{8}$  lower, having earlier been up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  down. This slight rally continued gently during the afternoon and the market closed steady with shorts marginally easier on the day, mediums largely unchanged, and longs about  $\frac{1}{4}$  down on balance.

The Industrial market opened slightly better, extending the overnight trend. Prices showed further improvement during the day on selective investment interest. However, some selling towards the close of business caused most sectors to end below the best levels. Building shares remained in demand on hopes for a more favourable outlook in the event of a further fall in interest rates. The Stores sector was unchanged although J. Hepworth were well supported on renewed bid suggestion. Oils were generally steady but Lasmo improved on sharply higher profits and an undertaking to pay a dividend next year. Among Chemical issues, both Smith and Nephew and Brent Chemicals hardened following encouraging annual figures. Kaffirs were better in line with the bullion price.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 505.9 (up 4.7)

<u>C.N.D.</u>	Sales	£	4,167,000
	Purchases		NIL
	Nett Sales on balance	£	4,167,000
<u>BANK</u>	Sales	£	9,929,000
	Purchases	£	12,182,000
	Nett Purchases on balance	£	2,253,000