

Wednesday, 29th April, 1981.

The Gilt Edged market has again been extremely quiet. The market opened unchanged throughout, but short-dated stocks improved slightly in early dealings and then, with minor fluctuations, held this improvement for most of the rest of the day. However, just before the close the rise to 18% in the Chase prime rate caused prices to revert to overnight levels. Longs, although seeing a little early two-way business, soon became very quiet and closed generally unchanged, although one or two stocks showed small improvements on the day.

The Industrial market opened steady on the penultimate day of the current account. Most sectors tended higher as buyers appeared for the new account beginning on Friday. However, there was no sustained follow through and prices drifted back although remaining better on balance in quiet trading conditions. Leading 'blue-chip' companies were firm and I.C.I. improved ahead of the interim results due tomorrow. Building shares were well supported. Tarmac made renewed progress following favourable press comment about yesterday's excellent figures. Blue Circle justified recent demand as final profits easily exceeded market expectations. Among unchanged Food issues, BAT Industries were sharply higher on the better than expected annual results and encouraging statement. Stores encountered some support with House of Fraser improving on the increased dividend but marginally lower profits. Clearing Banks were easier but Insurance and Discount House shares were better with Gerrard and National firm following recent figures. Interest was also shown in Smith St. Aubyn who are reporting next week. Kaffirs were dull as the gold price declined.

	Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.)	578.5 (up 4.0)
<u>C.N.D.</u>	Sales	£ 637,000
	Purchases	£ 486,000
	Nett Sales on balance	£ 151,000
<u>BANK</u>	Sales	NIL
	Purchases	£ 57,786,000
	Nett Purchases on balance	£ 57,786,000