

Wednesday, 31st March, 1982.

The Gilt-Edged market had been better after-hours yesterday and opened at that level this morning to show rises of up to  $\frac{3}{8}$  from yesterday's official close. After a steady start buyers appeared again and the market rose throughout the morning to go into lunch up to  $\frac{5}{8}$  up in shorts and  $1\frac{1}{8}$  better in longs. In the afternoon prices eased slightly from the best levels and closed about  $\frac{1}{2}$  up in shorts and  $\frac{3}{4}$  - 1 up in longs. Index-Linked stocks remained neglected and showed no changes on the day. Low-coupons were again a good feature with rises of up to  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

The Industrial market opened better on renewed optimism for economic prospects. Most sectors hardened during the day on sustained institutional demand and prices closed around the best levels. In a firm Engineering sector, British Aerospace moved ahead on further consideration of yesterday's figures. Babcock International were sharply higher following excellent yearly results. Among leading 'blue-chip' companies, Glaxo were well supported prior to annual profits due next week. Building stocks were steady although Cement shares were weak after adverse press comment concerning cheap imports. Blue Circle and Rugby were both sharply lower. Insurance issues improved with Legal and General higher on final results that exceeded market expectations. However, Guardian Royal eased following slightly disappointing figures. Kaffirs were marginally lower in line with the bullion price.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 568.5 (up 6.2)

<u>C.N.D.</u>	Sales	£	485,000
	Purchases	£	1,062,000
	<b>Nett Purchases on balance</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>577,000</b>
<u>BANK</u>	Sales	£	69,640,000
	Purchases		NIL
	Nett Sales on balance	£	69,640,000