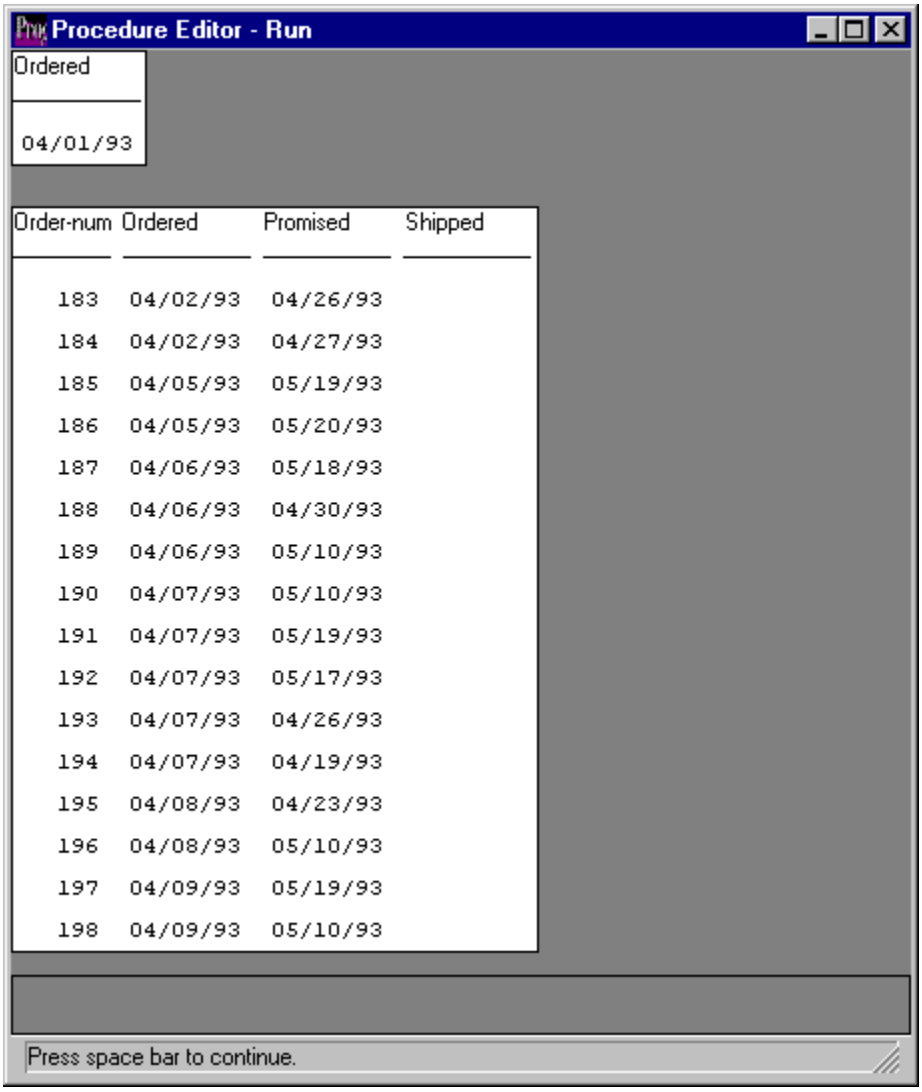
Selecting Records with Variables

slctvar1.p

```
/* slctvar1.p */

def var a like order-date.

repeat:
  update a.
  for each order where order-date > a:
    display order-num order-date promise-date ship-date.
  end. /* for each */
end. /* repeat */
```



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- Use **LIKE** to define a variable that is similar to a field or another variable.
  - A variable defined with **LIKE** inherits the data type, format and label of the field or variable you specify.
  - **LIKE** and **AS** are mutually exclusive. You can't use both to define the same variable.
- An **UPDATE** statement does two things:
  - It displays the value of the variable.
  - It allows the user to enter data for that variable.
- In this example, we use variable **a** as a starting date for orders by only reading those records in the **FOR EACH** statement whose **order-date** is greater than **a**.
  - We also use a **REPEAT** block so we can loop through the program and get new starting dates.

PROGRESS Syntax

UPDATE statement

```
UPDATE [UNLESS-HIDDEN]
  [{field [format-phrase] [WHEN expression]}|
    {TEXT(field [format-phrase]...)}|
    {field = expression }|{constant [AT n|TO n]}|
    {^}|{SPACE [(n)]}|{SKIP [(n)]}]...
  [GO-ON(key-label...)] [frame-phrase] [editing-phrase]
  [NO-ERROR]
```