

BRITAIN FACES TRADE BATTLE

PARIS, June 28 (AP)—Britain faces a showdown today with other Marshall plan nations on how trade should be conducted among the nations of Europe.

The seven-member consultative committee of the organization for European economic cooperation (OEEC) met for a little more than half an hour this morning and de-

clined to turn the whole problem over to the full 19-nation organization later in the day. An OEEC spokesman described the morning meeting as "just a

formal gathering" and said: "The real debate will begin now, and it will probably go on tomorrow." W. Averell Harriman, U. S. ambassador-at-large for the Marshall plan attended the consultative committee session. A spokesman for him denied reports published in London

that Harriman had threatened to cut Marshall plan aid to Britain unless the British agreed to American proposals. The stakes in national prestige and perhaps even national economic stability seems large in comparison with the immediate dollar stakes.

Last week the top economic experts of Britain, France and Belgium met in Brussels but could not resolve their differences. It was a question of the others not being able to reach an agreement with Sir Stafford Cripps, Britain's iron-willed chancellor of the exchequer.

The question is whether each nation will make its own trade agreements with the other nations singly, or will all the nations set up general principles, agree on their currency relationships and then take steps toward multilateral trade.

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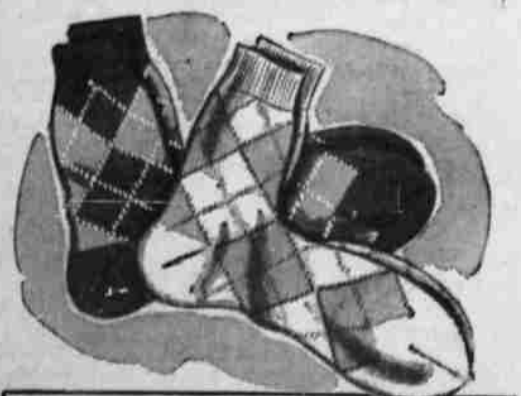
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