

BRITAIN LEARNS THE FACTS

~~From the House of Commons, in a debate opened by~~

From Parliament came the grave news, in a debate opened by Anthony Edes, answered by Herbert Morrison, that this is ^{of} the eleventh hour ~~in~~ Britain's economic plight. Of the great sum needed to pay for imports, exports even now fall short. By 450-millions we are not paying our ~~own~~ way. Not much longer can we put the bill on the slate. Austerity has not been enough. Britain has certainly lived in no fool's paradise, but a sort of fool's penitentiary, with the sentence renewed at every promised release-date. To bridge the 450-million gap immediately would mean no tobacco whatever, no paper for newspapers, no petroleum products, no imported consumer goods. The economic life of the nation would stop.

[Petrol, for instance, is not a luxury. Much of our transport, in country as well as town, runs by the internal combustion engine. As for consumer good, lack of them diverts floods of money into organised sport, which incidentally, tempts men to take days off, at a time, too, when every man-hour lost drains ^{the} life-blood of a weakened country. Organised gambling rakes in its millions; corrupts an honest people with the moral poison of get-rich-quick.

(papers)

~~Foreigners~~

Foreigners, observing front page devotion to one sports event after another, might suppose us to be on a tidal wave of prosperity, not rushing down the steep place to economic disaster. Successive unofficial strikes - aftermath of war to some extent and reflecting discontent

with high prices and dull diet, severely cut down production.

(STV)

Often the country has felt the need of a tight hand on the reins. The people will always respond, as was declared a few months ago by Field Marshal Montgomery.

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The Marshall offer of aid to Europe, welcomed by France and Britain and 14 other nations, may tide us over for a while, but Europe is in a sad way. The bombing necessary to win the war ~~turns~~ turns Germany to a liability, a slum in the heart of Europe. Asia too is a sick continent, riven by famine, race-hatreds and civil war. One way and another the times are out of joint.

(chink stret) Earning back to home Mr. Herbert Morrison admits we cannot hope to bridge the economic gap without help.