WORLD AT YOUR ELBOW

Los Angeles discovers a baby mermaid - one-year-old Sherry Lynn
Whitford dives into the swimming pool like a seal and swims
confidently under water.   The secret of her success is her ability to
hold her breath happily for long periods.   Try holding your breath
while Sherry stays under water.   Ready.   Take a deep breath everyone
and now - hold it.

Hold it.

Don't breathe.

Hold it.

Sherry is safe and sound.   How about you?

This is easier.   Take your choice from among these faces.   Which
is that of Miss Paris, nineteen forty eight?   Alright, ignore the faces,
concentrate on the....er...the problems facing the Miss France Selection
Committee.   From eighteen competitors they must choose a lady to
represent Paris in the All France Beauty contest.

The austerity which marks the times favours the judges.   With a
half coupon value of material shared between all the contestants, there
is little in the way to prevent arrival at a "fair" decision, or should
we say...Brunette decision.   Here she is - Miss Paris!!!!   Talking of
austerity - the drought of oysters may soon be broken.

For the first time since 1926, a French fishing fleet sails from the
Brittany port of Cancale to catch oysters.   150 trawlers and smacks go
out to revive an ancient Breton industry.   Usually found between tidal
levels along the coasts of all continents, the oysters along the
European coast-line are of the flat type.   Often regarded by less
fortunate mortals as the staple diet of the rich, the slippery little
customers (eaten raw when removed from their shells) are regarded by
many as the world's greatest delicacy.   To the Breton fishermen, their
record haul means renewed prosperity for their home port.

Happy in the knowledge that oysters will sell at six shillings for
half a dozen, the people of Cancale welcome their men back home -
thankful that their efforts have been so richly rewarded.   Offering
thanks too are the people of Birmingham.   Carrying samples of their
trades, 700 people (representatives of thirty Midland firms) go to