



Dress emerges from back slit.



Coat is cut away in the front.

SKIRTS ARE BUSTING OUT ALL OVER was the theme song of two American designers of coats. Slitting a coat from waist to hem was their way of letting the fullness of skirts escape. Claire McCardell slit her piqué coat (*above l.*) at the back . . . Vera Maxwell's cotton crash coat (*above r.*) has the gap in front. Both coats are from the summer collections—so new they will not be in stores until late in March.

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