

SWEET SIMPLICITY

Nothing about the Bretton Woods proposals has bewildered us more than the fact that they seem to be clearer to some newspaper columnists than they are to several of the deep-dish thinkers who helped frame them.

A columnist gives one the comforting assurance that the whole thing is really just like the town treasury and local bank in any American community, only on a big scale. But the experts apparently can't even decide whether the Bretton Woods blueprint is for the gold standard or agin it.

Harry D. White, assistant secretary of the Treasury, told the House Banking Committee that the gold standard would "in a sense" be restored under the plan. But the eminent and erudite Lord Keynes of England has interpreted the Bretton Woods specifications as meaning that there will be no return to the gold standard.

Ordinarily any proposition that seemed simple to a newspaperman and confusing to an international money expert would be good enough for us. But in this case that handy solution seems a trifle shaky.

We suspect somehow that it's more important for Mr. Morgenthau and Lord Keynes to agree on what Bretton Woods means than it is for Tom Stokes and Sam Grafton to agree that the whole thing's perfectly simple.