

Bretton Woods Proposals Find Bankers Split

Important Keystone
Element, However,
Favors World Plan

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Sentiment among Pennsylvania bankers on the Bretton Woods proposals for international economic solidarity appears to be divided, with an important element of the state's bankers, however, apparently supporting the agreements, including both the proposed international bank and an international monetary fund.

The international bank has met more or less general endorsement, but there has been criticism of the monetary fund, including that of the American Bankers Association. Because of the attitude of the ABA, the impression has been given that bankers generally are opposed to the \$8,000,000,000 international fund for the stabilization of currencies. Among the criticisms of the fund are that it is unworkable and wasteful.

Legislation Is Recommended

A group of leading Philadelphia bankers, acting as individuals, recommended to Congress Thursday that approval be given to legislation authorizing establishment of the agencies embodied in the Bretton Woods agreements.

On Tuesday the Research Committee of the Committee for Economic Development suggested that stabilization loans be made the province of the bank and the monetary fund be left to deal with temporary imbalances of international trade which it called a "simple but significant change" in the fund and bank.

It is now learned that a special committee named by T. C. Swartz, president of the Pennsylvania Bankers Association, made a partial report last December which tends to endorse the Bretton Woods agreements, although suggesting some changes.

Swartz, who is executive vice president of the Woodlawn Trust Company, Altoona, said he did not know whether there would be any further reports from the com-

mittee on the subject. He said, however, the report as submitted did not tend to parallel the criticism of the monetary fund as expressed by the American Bankers Association.

Position Not Revealed

The exact position of the Pennsylvania Bankers' Association committee on the fund is not known. F. Brian Reuter, vice president of the Union Trust Company of Pittsburgh, chairman of the committee, said Saturday that inasmuch as the report has not been adopted by the association, he considered publication inadvisable at this time.

The report was presented to the Council of Administration of the association on December 6 in Philadelphia. This council consists of the elected officers of the association and chairmen and members of various committees. The association itself usually has its meeting at mid-year.

The members of the committee which formulated the Bretton Woods report, in addition to Mr. Reuter, were F. F. Brooks, president of the First National Bank at Pittsburgh; Arthur E. Braun, chairman of the Farmers Deposit National Bank; H. B. McDowell, president of the McDowell National Bank, Sharon; J. F. Aierstock, president of the Conestoga National Bank, Lancaster; Dudley R. Atherton, vice president of the Third National Bank and Trust Company, Scranton; Norman T. Hayes, vice president of the Philadelphia National Bank; Howard A. Loeb, chairman of the Tradesmen National Bank and Trust Company, Philadelphia; A. D. Swift, president of the Central-Penn National Bank, Philadelphia, and David E. Williams, president of the Corn Exchange National Bank, Philadelphia.

Loeb, Swift and Williams were three of the 11 Philadelphia bankers who made the recommendations on the Bretton Woods proposals to Congress on Thursday.

The Philadelphia group told Congress that it was possible to meet criticisms within the framework of the Bretton Woods plan, particularly to clarify the position of this country on differences in interpretation which now appear to exist. Under the A. E. A. suggestion, the fund would be eliminated altogether and the bank, which is scheduled to have a capital of \$8,000,000,000 would take over at least part of its functions.