

# A Stage-Managed Crisis

**I**T was impudent of the Administration to demand hasty Congressional action on the complicated Bretton Woods understandings after letting them kick around since last July before submitting them to Congress.

After Secretary Morgenthau, before the House Banking and Currency Committee, callously insisted on SPEED and "NO SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES," he was queried as to the tarrying by the Administration from July to March.

Mr. Morgenthau indicated he did not know the cause of the long pause.

*Evidently the Secretary's memory is short, for the timing of the submission to Congress was shrewdly stage-managed by the New Deal.*

Shortly after the Bretton Woods Conference, Senator Wagner, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and a Member of the U. S. Delegation to Bretton Woods, frankly announced that, inasmuch as the international banking projects were controversial, they would NOT BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF CONGRESS UNTIL AFTER THE NOVEMBER ELECTION.

Brent Spence, Democrat, of Kentucky, Chairman of the House Com-

mittee, in supplementing Mr. Morgenthau's faulty memory, referred not only to the deferment until after the election, but added that there had been no desire to have a "lame duck" Congress pass on the plan.

The Republicans on the Committee pooh-poohed Mr. Morgenthau's suggestion that the deadline for affirmative action was before the United Nations San Francisco Conference on April 25.

**\$** They properly insisted that Congress would not be a rubber stamp, but would carefully audit the projects in which American treasure would be heavily committed.

The attempt to create a Congressional emergency, requiring hasty action, was as cynical as the calloused removal of Jesse H. Jones from his fiduciary positions in order to reward Henry Wallace for his purely personal political service in the last campaign.

*Hope for preservation of the American system lies in the growing independence by Congress of the Executive.*

Ability to see through stage-managed crises is part of a new insistence that the American constitutional system should be permitted to function.