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POLITICAL PARADE By George Rothwell Brown

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S demand of more power over the tariff structure, that would reduce this country virtually to a free-trade basis in the postwar world, is a part of the Bretton Woods scheme to make America the world's Santa Claus.

The message to Congress is reminiscent of the customary hocus by which Congress in the past has been induced to surrender its constitutional power to levy tariffs for the purpose of raising revenue for the support of the Government.

The reciprocity scheme was advanced first under the specious promise that it would increase exports.

It was renewed under the deceptive guise of a measure to prevent war.

Its renewal for three years (into the next presidential campaign) is recommended as a device to save the world from peacetime economic warfare.

The by-passing of Congress by the so-called Hull trade agreements—which the Senate never had an opportunity to ratify, or reject—did not increase exports, as the statistics will prove.

RECIPROCITY did not save the world from war, and it is believed by many in Congress that the renewal of this power now would be more calculated to provoke economic warfare in the future than to prevent it.

The scheme the President now again urges upon Congress is as British as Bretton Woods.

British economists are emphasizing at this moment the paramount importance of the discovery of means for increasing the export trade of the British Isles after the war. Only thus can Britain survive.

The New Deal economists promise to meet this British necessity by obligingly lowering Ameri-



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can tariff barriers. The theory is that we must finance the world from the United States Treasury, under the Bretton Woods international bank and international monetary fund, and open our markets to the debtor nations to enable them to meet their obligations.

REPUBLICAN members of the Ways and Means Committee do not propose to have this extension of the Trade Agreements Act rushed through Congress in time to serve, like Bretton Woods, as a pay-off medium at the United Nations Conference at San Francisco.

They will put up stubborn resistance to this extension, and to a further grant of authority to the President to reduce present tariff rates by 50 per cent **BELOW THE EXISTING LEVEL**. Some members of Ways and Means who voted for reciprocity before will oppose it now.

Representative John Taber of New York, not a member of Ways and Means, in conversation with this writer, summed up the almost immediately hostile Republican reaction to the President's newest demand for tariff power:

"This is designed to establish a dictatorship and accomplish the plan to wreck the American economy.

"It would wreck the peace as well. It would lead other nations to expect a permanent continuance of things which other countries cannot intelligently hope for.

"It would throw labor out of employment in this country.

"It would destroy employment.

"It would lower the standard of living in the United States and reduce us to the low world standard of living."

THE President has walked into one of his hottest fights with Congress.

He has made it less likely that legislation to implement Bretton Woods can be rushed through House and Senate without reservations prior to the meeting of the nations at San Francisco.