

# Let's Face It

**I**N RECENT weeks I have talked with trade union leaders, local Communist Political Association heads and leaders of other political organizations from various parts of the state about the Bretton Woods discussions now going on in Congress.

My impression is that there is altogether too little realization of the world-shaking significance of Bretton Woods and even less feeling of urgency concerning the necessity of action to get them approved by Congress.

There appears to be a tendency to treat them as a secondary matter, a sort of afterthought to the San Francisco conference on world organization. Since celebrations in one form or another are being prepared everywhere on behalf of San Francisco, the general feeling seems to be that Bretton Woods is being taken care of automatically.

It is certainly a lot simpler to organize wide movements in support of world peace organization. The issue is a lot easier to understand than problems of world finance. So overwhelming is the popular sentiment for such organization that few dare to buck it publicly.

In fact, there is a danger that some of the more silly foes of the United Nations concept will find it smart to appear to go along with San Francisco in order to try to scuttle unity around economic issues, specifically against

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Bretton Woods.

They know that world peace will not be maintained if there is no economic collaboration, and that there can be no such collaboration unless the U. S., by far the most powerful economic power on earth, takes the lead. They know, too, that the action taken by Congress toward Bretton Woods will determine whether the U. S. will take the leadership or whether they will be able to block it.

This key world issue is now being fought out hotly in Congress, but you would never know it from the atmosphere in most labor and other progressive circles. That intense spirit and activity that generally accompanies a major legislative or political campaign in which the labor movement is involved just isn't there.

**Y**ET the situation is far from hopeful. The weekly Washington round-up of the Scripps-Howard press last Saturday noted that a "sweep by friends of the agreement" indicates that the House Banking and Currency Committee, which is considering them, "might line up 13 to 12 against accepting the stabilization fund as of today."

It goes on to say that "Administration people are worried; say there's danger that the first test of U. S. cooperation with the world may go against them, urge that modification will mean rejection by other nations. Already, they compare this fight to that over the League of Nations."

## Wootton Woods Has Not Yet Been Adopted

On the day this agreement was made, the Farm Bureau Federation was leading to have the committee in favor of the agreement. The Farm Bureau is the most powerful agricultural organization in the nation's history, from which most members of Congress feel its influence can easily decide the issue if the means can be found for carrying it through.

WHAT appears to be lacking on a nationwide scale, is the organizing and rallying center for the labor movement, the various organizations, the numerous civic, social and financial and business groups that are for Wootton Woods. Such a center could get the members of the Farm Bureau, of the National Farmers Union, of local chambers of commerce and of labor into action in each congressional district.

New York State, for instance, has four Congressmen on the Banking and Currency Committee. Two of them are definitely known to be against the agreement. They are the well-known William E. Barry of Albany and Ralph Gamble of Westchester. Another member, Clarence Kilburn of the western and eastern farm country is listed as doubtful. The fourth member is Peter G. Brown of the Bronx, who probably will back F.W.O.

If there were a statewide coordinating group active in enlisting backing for the agreement, it would go into those districts at the state and do a job in rallying the people. If it is the various organizations backing Wootton Woods will have to go ahead as they can in those areas, as elsewhere.