

# Miller Unit Favors Free Trade Move

## Studies Monetary Proposals, School Aid

The Bretton Woods monetary proposals and federal aid to education were subjects of lengthy debate last night when members of the Miller unit of the Gary League of Women Voters met in the home of Mrs. Stanley B. Kohn, 8737 Lake Shore drive.

The league members discussed the proposals as outlined by Mrs. Kohn, who had informed them that most objections were centered on the fund to be set up by the co-operating nations. They concluded that such a fund is necessary in order to stabilize currency that will flow into the international bank from the united nations and put an unqualified stamp of approval on such a fund when it was pointed out that the money to be set aside for this purpose by the United States would not exceed the present treasury outlay for 11 days of war cost.

They recognized a great need for stimulation of world trade and saw in the economic proposals the key to achieving free trade. Peace, they agreed, must be achieved through economic co-operation.

### Aid to Schools

Reducing their study scope of the United States, the unit members weighed the pros and cons of federal aid to education, which they deemed neither new nor revolutionary. The hazard of federal control versus state rights, they solved simply by asking themselves why the federal government could not pass the aid to the educational departments of the 48 states.

The background material provided by Mrs. Kenneth Rearick included ~~and grants~~ the Smith-Lever act aiding dissemination of agricultural knowledge; the Smith-Hughes act providing \$20 million annually for vocational education, and the federally sponsored war training courses of the last few years.

If there is to be federal aid, they concurred, there must be some standard, but they were not in harmony with the Thomas Hill bill presented in the 78th congress and now in committee. The bill would allocate two-thirds of the sum on a basis of school attendance in the state, thereby, league members felt, discounting the state's responsibility and continuing or even adding to the present inequalities existent in the country's schools. Only one-third of the money, according to the bill, would be placed on a basis of need.

### Fair Distribution

The league members agreed that such federal aid should be given only to public schools and only with assurance of fair distribution for minority races. This would correct such evils as the existing inequality in Mississippi, where \$40 is spent annually to educate a white child and only \$5 each year for a Negro child. Other inequalities, including length of the school term, variance in teachers' pay and curricula, must be leveled, too, they felt.

One possibility faced by the women was that states would not increase educational opportunities with the federal aid but would lower their own expenditure and simply maintain the status quo. This must be guarded against, they concluded.

The discussion on schools will be applied to the local situation at the April 23 meeting in the Miller home of Mrs. Morey Gross, 8602 Maple.