

## Bretton Woods in Danger

The chorus of universal approval which greeted the Bretton Woods World Bank agreement has given way to increasing rumblings of dissent. First the powerful American Bankers' Association urged a fundamental revision of the bank plan, and now, while the House Banking Committee is engaged in hearings on the agreement, the United States Chamber of Commerce recommends an amendment to eliminate the \$8,800,000,000 international monetary fund provision of the bank.

The Bretton Woods agreement is the first test of successful international cooperation. If that fails, the possibilities for success in other areas of United Nations activity are indeed remote. The Treasury Department is quite correct in alleging that the success of the Bank plan depends on whether the plan is accepted in its entirety. For if this country amputates any important segment, another world-wide conference would have to be convened and vote on the amended agreement or draw up an entirely new formula. The psychological effect upon the San Francisco conference would most certainly be an undesirable one. The Bretton Woods accord is vital to any system of harmonious international relationships and the monetary fund of the proposed international bank is vital to the latter.

Pre-war thinking on matters of world finance has been largely rendered obsolete by the impact of the great holocaust. The United States has already negotiated a loan to France of two and a half billion dollars; a loan of six billion to Russia is under negotiation, and a loan of five billion to Britain is being contemplated in connection with her war against Japan. These are huge figures, but they constitute an essential program for victory in war and prosperity in peace.

International finance after the war will be as much a matter of public interest as it has been during the war. The Bretton Woods plan takes it out of private hands and puts it where it belongs, in the hands of the people's governments. Only thus can the security which the people have won be placed on a permanent basis.