

Public Mail Backs Trade Pacts, Bretton Woods

By ART SHIELDS

WASHINGTON.—Prospects for the passage of the Trade Agreements Act for lower tariffs and the Bretton Woods monetary pact—the twin points of the Administration's program of international economic cooperation—appear hopeful if the delegations to Congressmen get bigger and their incoming mail gets heavier.

Supporters of these bills are now being subjected to heavy pressure from the enemies of international cooperation. Thus Wright Patman (D-Tex), an Administration stalwart on the House Banking and Currency Committee, which is considering the Bretton Woods bill, told the Worker that he is getting many letters against the proposal from various parts of the country which "bear obvious marks of organized propaganda."

"The spontaneous mail, however, is overwhelmingly for Bretton Woods," he continued, "and the mail from my own district in Texas is strongly on my side."

TARIFF PRESSURE

Organized direct mail propaganda is also bearing down on supporters of the Trade Agreements Act, which the Republicans are fighting with more unity and determination. This measure is designed to give American business men more foreign trade and American workers more jobs by permitting the Government to lower tariff rates as much as 50 per cent more.

This propaganda is organized on

a nationwide basis. Thus we learned at the office of Herman P. Eberharter, Pittsburgh, Pa. Democrat, that he has been bombarded with high tariff letters from the watch-making center of Elgin, Ill. Other Administration supporters tell the same story.

Fortunately Americans in increasing numbers are asking their representatives to stand steady. It was learned on Capitol Hill, for instance, that Rep. William B. Barry (N.Y.), Banking and Currency committee member, who has voiced opposition to Bretton Woods, is disturbed by the volume of mail in favor of the measure that his constituents are sending him.

There are indications that Rep. H. Street Baldwin (D-Md), may have been influenced somewhat by Baltimore sentiment for the bill, including a strong Baltimore Sun editorial supporting the bill minus ABA amendments.

The lineup on the Banking and Currency Committee on the bill is still uncertain. Chairman Brent Spence (D-Ky) tells The Worker that the bill will be reported out. He is confident of that.

On the other hand Rep. Patman warns that the bill could be defeated in the committee if all the Republicans vote against it and two Democrats vote with them.