

Green Tells House Hearing Bretton Woods Is Vital

By ART SHIELDS

WASHINGTON, April 27.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, told the House Banking and Currency Committee today that the AFL considered the Bretton Woods agreement of "vital importance" for lasting peace.

The Bretton Woods plan for international monetary cooperation and loans to devastated countries is essential to the success of the world peace organization, declared the AFL leader.

Green emphasized again and again that he was speaking in the name of the AFL with its millions of members.

These unseen millions tended to restrain Republican committee members somewhat. Fred L. Crawford (R-Mich), whose mail box has been full of pro-Bretton Woods letters for weeks, edged away from direct attacks on the agreement, in questioning Green, and switched to an argument for high tariffs.

Jessie Sumner (R-Ill), the Chicago Tribune's spokesman, made the hopeless blunder of talking about the "lower classes," when addressing a leader of labor.

Arguing for economic isolation from Britain, Miss. Sumner said to Green:

"In visiting England before the war some of us were impressed with the fact that the so-called lower classes (of course, we haven't any classes in America) I mean the working classes, had a lower standard of living there than here."

Green let the crack about the "classes" go by, but he told Col. McCormick's political friend that the British people had even better social security protection than the Americans, though their wages weren't so high. And he reminded her that the "broad, unselfish" principles laid down in the Bretton Woods pact would help the two nations.

And when she came back with the assertion that one of the powers in the war coalition, whom she didn't name, was "selfish," Green drily replied that she was entitled to his own opinion.

Green lauded the international fund for monetary stabilization, proposed in the Bretton Woods plan, after praising the proposed international bank.



Pfc. Jack Foster of Jersey City, member of the U. S. Third Army, takes time off to chat with two pretty Czech girls. When the Third Army entered friendly Czechoslovakia, the non-fraternization ban was lifted.

The fund, he said, will help eliminate the causes of economic warfare, that used to find expression in "competitive currency depreciation, discriminatory control of foreign exchange, in bilateral agreements for barter, in high tariffs, controlled reduction of imports, dumping and other practices interfering with international trade.

He said he realized the Bretton Woods plan must be supplemented "by efforts to expand and stabilize the economy and the domestic financial system of each country, constantly increasing consumer purchasing power, with great production."

"If the United States does not ratify these agreements," he told the committee, "we may be accused of bad faith by the people of the world who are relying on us for aid in their prostration and misery."