

To Make Trade Free

By Dr. Eugene Friedberg

The agreements reached at Bretton Woods have in mind a world in which international trade is State dominated.

An interdepartmental committee of technicians is working in Washington on a program for agreements to "stabilize" the price of international commodities. Representatives of the Department of Agriculture are represented as desiring permanent instead of merely temporary international commodity agreements, while other experts hold that such agreements fixing prices and production on world markets would be inconsistent with our governmental opposition to cartels. This is perfectly true, and we must remember that the nations that are the chief consumers of the raw materials will resent the fixing of prices above the natural market and that such economic disagreements will lead to dangerous political antagonisms.

There is danger that the phrase "international cooperation" may be perverted to mean the control of the economic transactions of its citizens by its government. On the contrary, true international cooperation means the termination of such governmental controls, which are conducted in the interests of political pressure groups, and the return to a world in which men are free to trade and produce at the prices fixed by supply and demand and competitive efficiency.
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