

## WASHINGTON IN DILEMMA OVER JAPAN'S STAND

Peril to China and Great Powers Grows, as Nippon Intensifies Attack.

BY WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS  
Scripps-Howard Foreign Editor

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Baffled, befuddled, and dismayed, official Washington today scanned the far eastern storm clouds for anything remotely resembling a rift—anxiously, but in vain.

Instead, a dozen ruddy danger signals had thrust themselves above the horizon in the last twenty-four hours, warning of increasing peril to China and to the great powers whose fighting men and warships are clustered at Shanghai.

Further advice from Tokio adds gravity to Japan's proposal to "internationalize" China's principal cities—a proposal which the state department characterized as a step in the direction of dismemberment.

Japan, it appears, is prepared to go the absolute limit to smash the Chinese boycott. If the United States and other foreign powers are unwilling to join her to make China behave properly, by increasing international control by the above, or some other method, she will complete the job alone.

### Huge War Orders Reported

Humiliated by their fortnight of failure to rout the Chinese from Shanghai, the Japanese general staff, observers here anticipate, will make the Yangtze and Whangpoo run with blood if necessary to "save their face."

Other factors from widely separated parts of the world have cropped up to add to the uneasiness here.

1. Moscow reports that Japan has placed enormous orders for war materials in France, which country had advanced \$90,000,000 yen—\$400,000,000 at the normal rate of exchange—which with carry on.

2. Similarly it is reported that the Skoda works, in Czechoslovakia, is working day and night on war orders from Japan. Czechoslovakia is France's ally.

3. From Harbin dispatched state that beneath a cloak of unwonted silence, Soviet Russia is preparing feverishly against a Japanese surprise attack in North Manchuria. Camouflaged troop movements were in progress in the direction of Vladivostok and other strategic points.

### England "Counted Out"

4. Speeches in the house of commons reveal that in the present world crisis Great Britain will have to be counted out, so far as any vigorous stand against Japan is concerned. Her trade is lower than it has yet been, unemployment has set a new all-time record and very pessimistic news is arriving daily from India.

5. France, long the one prosperous country in Europe, now is reported increasingly hard hit. Orders from Japan would be welcome and helpful. And, despite denials, far eastern observers here and abroad remain convinced that there is some sort of understanding between the two countries covering the Orient.

6. It is regarded as significant that the League of Nations, instead of boldly tackling the far eastern conflict, is doing its utmost to hold Dr. Yen, the Chinese delegate, in check to prevent him invoking Article 16, with its all-for-one-and-one-for-all provisions.

### Stimson in Dilemma

Meanwhile, from Capitol Hill pours the most conflicting advice. Some advocate a strong hand. Some urge scuttling as fast as possible from the scene of trouble. Others suggest a boycott against Japan, only to be reminded by still another school that a boycott is almost tantamount to an act of war. And so on.

Hopelessly divided as to policy, Washington apparently is united on only one thing; namely, that the state department must do nothing that risks getting us into war.

As a result of all the foregoing, Secretary of State Stimson, fully aware of the perils that beset every step of the way, is a mighty busy, and a mighty tired man. His days are taken up with conferences with division chiefs and diplomats. Nights find them studying reports from Shanghai, Tokio, Manchuria, Europe.

Perhaps more than any other Washington official just now, he knows what it is to anoint his woes with the midnight oil.

### Boys Dies Suddenly

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Feb. 12.—The first fatality of the 1932 football season was recorded here Thursday with the death of James Marion, 12. He died of heart disease after kicking a football.



BY BEN STERN

THE Lincoln Republicanism hypodermic has been in great use this week, as usually is on the occasion of the Great Emancipator's birthday in an election year.

The two big Lincoln dinners of the year, however, will be staged tonight, when southern Indiana and state Republicans gather at Evansville, and Second district workers at Logansport.

Charles W. Jewett, former mayor of Indianapolis, is to be the principal speaker at the Lincoln Club dinner. A candidate for the nomination for Governor in 1923, Jewett has assumed a watchful waiting attitude, with a "rain bucket" handy, in event of a deadlock in the Republican state convention.

The Evansville dinner will, however, be the cynosure of attention, as all factions of state and district Republicanism will be present to gauge sentiment and send up trial balloons.

For several campaigns the biennial dinner there has been seized upon as an auspicious moment and place to sound out sentiment.

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Among those present at Evansville will be M. Bert Thurman, national committeeman, so far the outstanding contender for the governorship, and representative of the candidates.

Thurman is expected to make formal announcement within a few weeks.

Although Senator Leroy J. Dickinson of Iowa is to be the principal speaker, more interest is expected to be shown in the aspirants for state office.

Steve Cook of Evansville is to announce as an applicant for the nomination for secretary of state.

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They don't need Cook down there, but they do need the increment of his father, Wallace Cook, who has been a candidate for congress from the old First to the material benefit of "the boys."

They tell me that when the local papers carried stories about Steve being "urged" to become a candidate for secretary of state, his father bought up the remaining issues of the editions to send to friends.

That displays the right kind of sentiment to the Republicans of the Pocket, who have been hard hit financially with the Democrats in control of the city hall and court-house pay rolls.

There will be a lot more interesting political gossip down at the Evansville meeting, which you will, no doubt, have relayed in the near future.

MR. ZERO' ANNOUNCES FOR VICE-PRESIDENCY

New York's "Nickel-Restauranteur" Plans Coast-to-Coast Chain.

By United Press

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—Urbain Ledoux, the "Mr. Zero" of New York's broadines, made two announcements today.

He is a candidate for the vice-presidency of the United States, not as the candidate of any party, "but because I want the people to elect me."

He plans to open a chain of 5 and 10 cent restaurants from New York to the Pacific coast to aid the suffering white collar class and to give employment to chefs and musicians.

"I will hire many chefs and musicians who are without work," he said. "While the people eat, the musicians will play."

INDIANAPOLIS COUPLE FLEE CHINESE CITY

Hostilities at Nanking Force Americans to Evacuate.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin and Nora Marx, Indianapolis missionaries in Nanking, China, were among seven other Americans forced to evacuate the city due to hostilities, according to dispatches received here Thursday. Seven other Indianapolis persons were taken from Nanking early this week.

C. A. Birch, former missionary in China, and director of religious education of the United Christian Missionary Society here, said Mrs. Marx had cabled of the evacuation. Dr. Clifford H. Plopper, formerly of this city, and brother of the society treasurer here, also was forced to leave.

Birch said Mr. and Mrs. Marx were forced to flee from Nanking in 1927.

By United Press

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