

The Far East

By Wm. Philip Simms

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The deadlock in the Russo-Japanese negotiations for a non-aggression pact, according to a Far Eastern source, is due to Japan's inability to convince Russia that the free hand Tokyo wants will not eventually be turned against the Soviet Union.

If Russia could make certain that Japan would join in the Axis war against the democracies, including the United States, it was said, Moscow would not hesitate to place Nippon on the same basis as Nazi Germany and for much the same reason.

Up to August, 1939, Russia was mortally afraid of Germany. Hitler had not concealed his ambition to include much of eastern Europe in his living space. Stalin, therefore, jumped at the chance to bargain with Hitler. By so doing he set the Nazis marching away from, instead of against, Russia.

Today, Russia fears Japan. Not immediately, of course, for Japan is pretty busy in China and is even looking longingly toward Indo-China, Thailand, Singapore and the East Indies. But should Japan find the going easy in that direction, she would emerge from the adventure stronger than before and in a much better position than ever to have it out with her old enemy, Russia.

The Russian Dilemma

Patience, Moscow has no intention of aiding Japan in that direction. A non-aggression pact now would be tantamount to saying: "Go ahead, Nippon. Seize the East Indies. Take their oil and rubber, tin, quinine, rice and other priceless raw materials. I'll not interfere."

At the conclusion of the war, assuming that the Axis powers won, Russia would find herself in a most dangerous situation. Her neighbor in Europe would be the all-powerful Reich. In Asia it would be Japan. Russia would be sandwiched between the two. As allies, they could squeeze the life out of her whenever

they felt like it, or wring from her whatever concessions it might please them to demand.

Germany alone, with the resources of Europe and the Near East behind her, would be more than a match for the Soviet Union. Ditto Japan, with the wealth of the Orient and the East Indies in her pocket. Linked together against her, Russia would not have a chance.

But if the United States were to intervene, the situation would be entirely different. No matter what happened, Japan could not win. Even if the United States were defeated, Japan would lose because she would be so weakened by the long struggle that Russia would have nothing to fear from her for decades to come.

Furthermore, the entry of the United States would prolong the conflict until Nazi Germany also would likely be too exhausted to be much of a menace to Russia. That is, if Russia remained aloof from the fighting as it is her resolute policy to do.

Tokyo Far From Happy

Some of the high officials at Tokyo, the writer is informed, see this plainly. And, seeing it, they are far from happy over the outlook. They would like a non-aggression guarantee from Russia to free their hands for the much-desired drive southward. But they do not want war with the United States in the bargain. Yet the Nazis are pressing them to go ahead and expand. The Nazis would welcome a Japanese-American war. So would the Muscovites. But outside the narrow circle of the still feudal-minded military caste, few other Japanese would. For such a war, at the very best, would leave them prostrate and at the mercy of the Red Bear.

If history repeats, therefore, it will be a bad sign. If Russia does for Japan what she did for Germany in August, 1939—when she freed Hitler's hands to attack Britain and France—it will be the signal that Moscow, at any rate, believes a Japanese-American clash is imminent. Either that or the moment has come for Japan and Russia to divide central and eastern Asia between them.

Such is the gist of reports from the Far East.

Inside Indianapolis (And "Our Town")

PROFILE OF THE WEEK: E. H. Kemper McComb, who is just rounding out his 25th year as principal of Manual Training High School and his 40th year in the Indianapolis school system, all of them spent at Manual. His full name is Ernest Hackett Kemper McComb and on Feb. 15th he will be 68 years of age.

He doesn't look it because he seems to keep trim and young through his association with youth. He's about 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighs about 165. He combs his gray hair neatly and he is a fastidious, though conservative, dresser.

His friends call him "Mac" or "Kemper." The kids at the school (and some of the teachers, too) call him "The Old Man" and "The Skipper," the latter a term widely used among old grads.

For 25 years he has dominated everything at Manual and he is held in more regard by the youngsters than possibly the teachers, mostly because he sides with the pupils in 99 cases out of every 100. He is famous for his bark, but he's rarely been known to bite.

He is noted in the school system for his temper. He gets angry, blusters and then lets it blow over just as quickly as it came up.

A One-Handed Putter

HE IS ONE SCHOOL official who doesn't, as a rule, take a regular vacation. Paid on a 12-month-a-year basis, he can usually be found at his office all summer long. Instead of leaving town, he usually works all morning during summer and then slips out to Meridian Hills in the afternoon for a game of golf.

He plays a pretty good game, shooting in the high eighties, or low nineties. When he gets off a bad shot, he just starts his equanimity is restored.

He's a trick one-handed putter and can usually drop even long ones that way. He insists on playing the game according to the rules and he makes others observe golf etiquette, too. His usual foursome consists of Dr. O. N. Torian, William Chapin of E. C.

Atkins, and Stacey Lindley of the Indiana Canning Machinery Co.

"The Skipper" has been active in the Exchange Club for many years and he is the only member ever to be re-elected president in its history. He bowls with club teams and he is always a ring-leader in the organization's annual golf tournament. He is highly regarded for his ready wit and ability at repartee.

No Liver and Onions!

AT HOME, he reads a lot and enjoys having company. He is fond of art and has many paintings. He likes to play rummy. He is a regular attending member of the Fairview Presbyterian Church. On summer Sunday afternoons he likes to go for a walk or get in his car and drive out on the country roads, often to such places as McCormick's Creek or Brown County.

He has a positive dislike for liver and onions, particularly the latter. His most striking mannerism is taking off his glasses during a conversation, folding them, putting them away and then putting them on again, and again and again. He uses them only for reading.

He's an accomplished doodler and when he's on a phone he doodles furiously, sometimes a bit of neat shading, more often a highly intricate geometrical design. He's a procrastinator, too, putting off reports and other unpleasant things until the last possible moment.

He Can Move Fast!

BACK IN HIS TEACHING days, just after the turn of the century, he used to be a baseball coach and he is still intensely interested in athletics. He would, however, let star athletes be assigned to "easy teachers." It's just a game, he insists, everybody's got to play hard, but right.

When he goes to games, he usually sits down on the players' bench and always turns up the brim of his hat "for luck." When he forgets, he's sure to be reminded by shouts from fans or players. He gets pretty excited at games.

Indeed, once when a Manual football player was lugging the ball through the whole opposition, "The Skipper" got so excited he leaped wildly off the bench and started down the sidelines. They still say he beat the ball carrier to the goal line by a full five yards.

Washington

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Republican hard luck did not end with the election. While defense and foreign policy occupy foremost positions in the schedule of Congress, the Republicans will have difficulty in pulling themselves together as a political unit. For in these two fields, issues don't jell on party lines.

On defense, the Republicans are bound to co-operate with the Administration. They were a little slow last year in catching on to the defense bandwagon, and during the Presidential campaign President Roosevelt capitalized on that with his merry refrain of "Mr. Boston and Fish."

This time, minority leaders are not to be caught asleep. They realize that they must feel their way in the new situation and await developments before trying to shape a party position.

On one thing, however, they are definite. They intend to support defense 100 per cent and to co-operate in every way to speed it. Republican criticism of defense will be on the side that not enough is being done, that the country is not getting its money's worth, and that the Administration is not providing adequate leadership.

Anti-Labor Label

Some individual Republicans will continue their attacks on labor but it is doubtful if a party issue will develop, especially as there is a growing desire within the Republican Party to shake off the anti-labor label which it has allowed the Administration to hang on it.

On foreign policy, both parties are split. First of all the Republicans who desire to make a party issue against the Administration are up against the fact that their recent Presidential candidate, Wendell Willkie, supports aid to Britain. One New Year's Day, in Miami, Mr. Willkie said he believed it was the intention of this country to "give those things necessary to aid the fighting men of Britain so the free

way of living may continue in other portions of the world." Some of his friends say he would favor sending convoys if that seemed necessary, although he has not discussed that point publicly. That is further than the Administration has gone.

The disposition of Congressional Republican leaders to leave individual party members on their own for the time being at least, and certainly until Mr. Roosevelt's program is more fully revealed. Republicans will find it difficult to make a party issue out of foreign policy in view of their internal division. Assistant Senate Republican Leader Austin supports the Administration and Senator Hiram Johnson is at the other extreme, while Senator Vandenberg favors isolation three days a week and the rest of the time is thinking about the United States dictating peace terms for continental Europe, with the threat of the United States intervening against the side that balks.

Democrats are as badly split. The most vocal opposition to the Administration comes from Senator Wheeler and he is seconded by another Democrat, Senator Bennett Clark.

The Dictatorship Issue

The fighting will be done not so much by the two parties but between bi-partisan coalitions supporting and opposing the Administration.

Defense and foreign policy not only cut across party lines but they undercut some of the standard Republican issues against the New Deal. Defense industry is rapidly eliminating unemployment as a political issue. Unfavorable defense expenses knock the economy issue down to a series of piecemeal hagglings over relatively smaller items. The immigration issue also falls by the wayside in a time like this.

As the defense effort continues, more White House authority will be exercised, but it will be difficult for the Republicans to raise an effective dictatorship issue there unless Mr. Roosevelt loses his head completely and his apparent readiness to accept the Eccles recommendations for repeal of some of his Presidential monetary powers will make it hard to picture him as power drunk.

My Day

By Eleanor Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, D. C., Friday.—Last night Miss Lehand and I found ourselves at dinner surrounded by gentlemen. I couldn't help remarking how really unimportant it is to have our tables so carefully balanced as to an even number of ladies and gentlemen.

We were certainly not evenly divided last night and yet everybody seemed to have a perfectly good time. Conversation flowed easily around the table.

It looks as though the gentlemen could manage to talk to each other occasionally and have an interesting time. I've learned from experience that women can do this, too, so we need not be so agitated when our tables do not come out exactly even.

The chairman of the Junior Chamber of Commerce luncheon yesterday made an amusing remark when he introduced me. He said that there was apparently some fundamental reason why women asked something to the enjoyment of an occasion, but he wasn't sure what that fundamental reason might be. I hope we may some day discover that there is no real reason for being divided up in social gatherings, and that women add to an occasion because they are pleasant human beings to have about.

The French rarely separate after dinner so as to

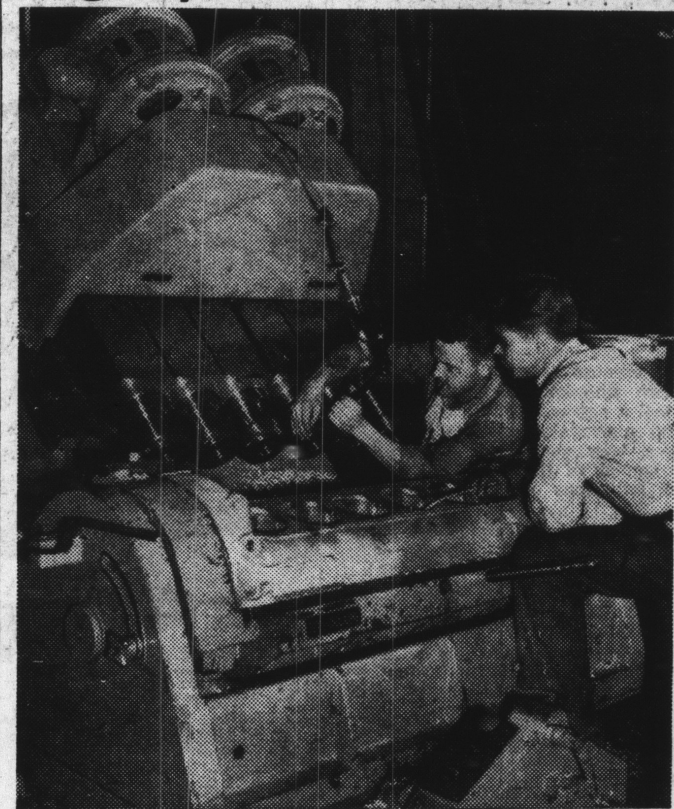
allow the men to talk alone. They have a theory, I think, that conversation carried on by both men and women is apt to be more interesting. It all boils down really to individuals. If the men and the women are dull, the party will be dull.

I think I must tell you a secret. Someone who read my column in which I ruefully agreed that it would be another four years before I could have a little black dog to sit on my white fur rug before the fire in my Hyde Park cottage, sent me for Christmas a life-size black toy dog! He has created a sensation.

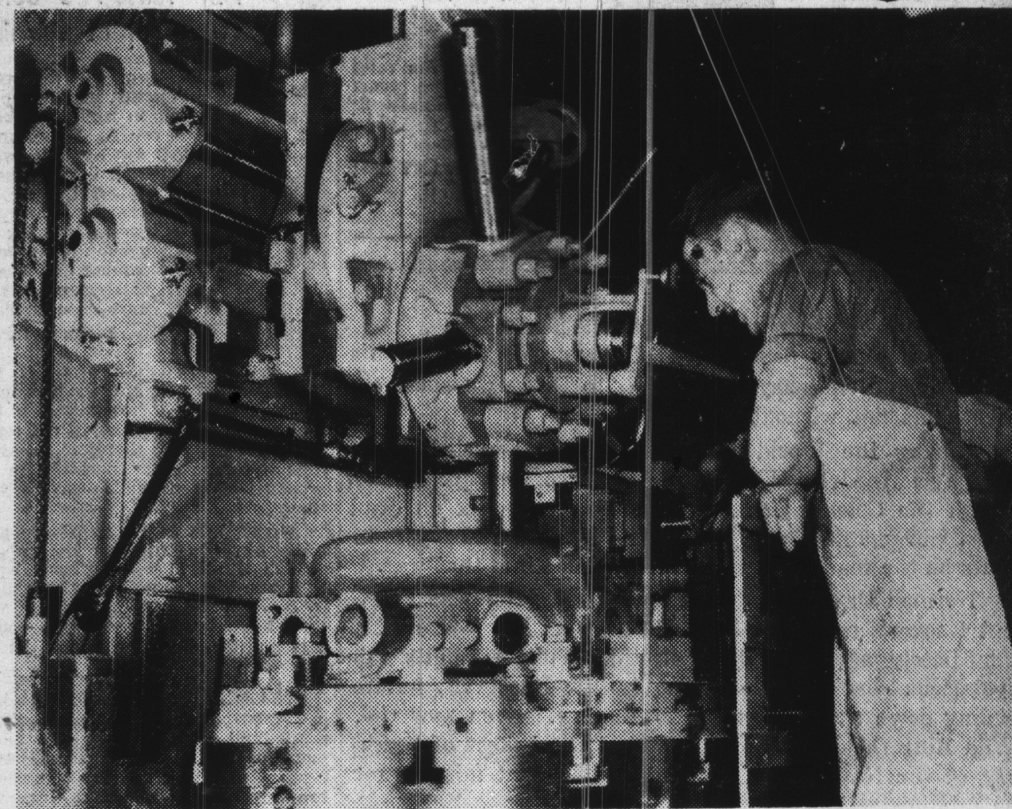
Little Franklin III and everyone else, young or old, picks him up from the corner which he occupies beside the fireplace here. My husband's real live little black Scottie hasn't quite decided yet whether he is an enemy or a friend. He comes and looks at the toy dog and if anyone picks it up and starts to make it move, "Fall!" runs away. I think of all my Christmas presents this has proved the most popular.

I expected to fly to New York City today, but the planes are cancelled and I am taking the train. Such are the uncertainties of winter weather and I am wondering if I shall be able to fly back tomorrow night. Operating an airplane in winter must present difficulties. Someone remarked last night that running a Government must be an irritating job at times. Well, perhaps it is complicated or much the same reason that running an airline is. Human beings are about as unpredictable as the weather!

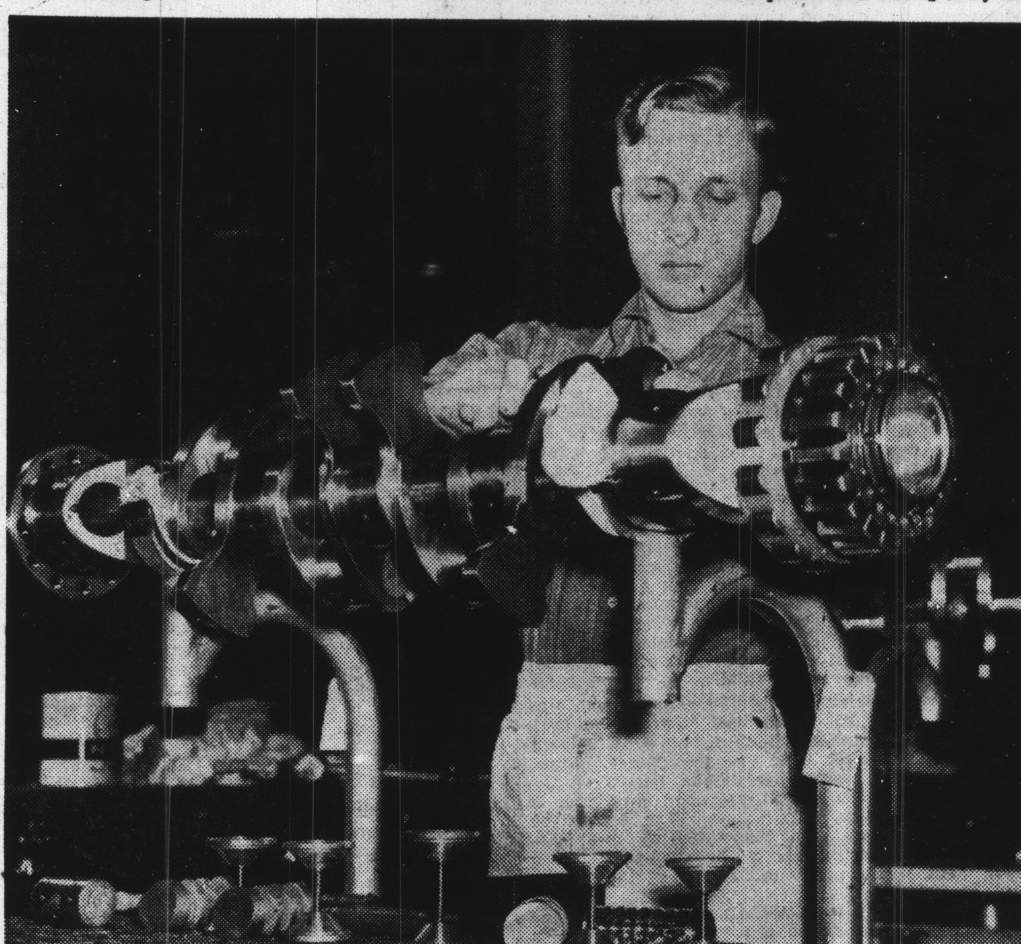
Highly Skilled Machinists Build Allison Plane Engines



These pictures show the inner workings of the Allison warplane motor plant in Speedway City. Here, one of 2000 "trainees" looks on as a skilled worker sets his machine tool to bore six holes for a cylinder bank in an engine.



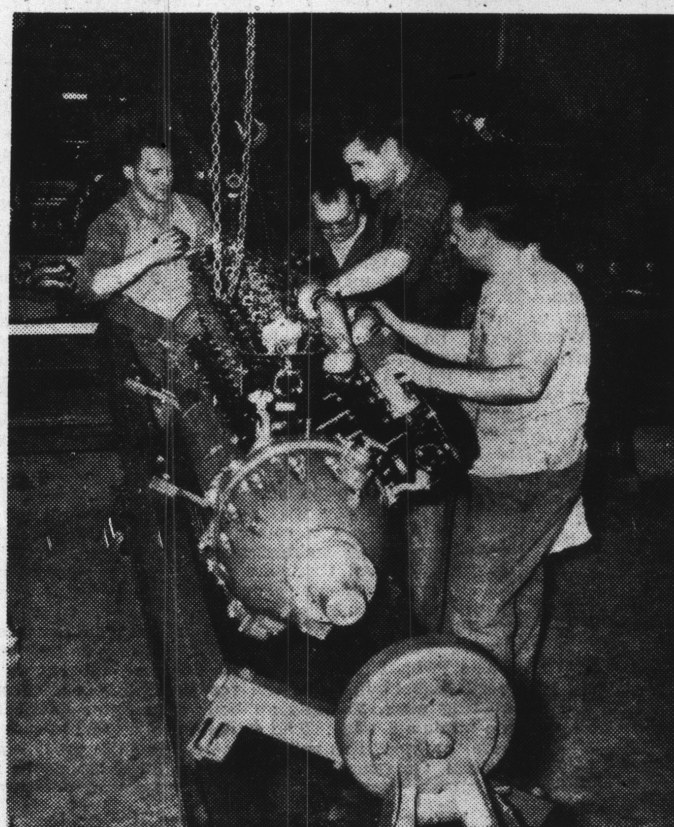
Machines must do much of the work at Allison's but they require constant watching. Here is a skilled machinist watching closely as a vertical turret lathe bores an eccentric hole in the accessory drive housing of one of the famous Allison engines. This General Motors division is currently turning out 350 liquid cooled motors every month.



This is the delicately balanced crankshaft that translates the constant pounding of 12 racing cylinders of the engine into revolutions of the airplane propeller. The worker is placing a crank-oil-plug into the shaft to allow it to be filled with oil under pressure. When plant additions are completed late this year, 10,000 men are expected to be turning out 1000 engines a month.



Diamonds play an important role in defense. This machine operator is testing the inside of airplane cylinder barrels for case hardness. A diamond indents the steel and records the precise hardness on a dial indicator.



When an Allison engine is completed, it is put through a grueling test run and then torn down for inspection.



Here the finishing touches are put on cylinder heads. The worker in the left foreground is one of a small army of inspectors and checkers employed at the plant. He is measuring the length of manifold studs.

DEVICE CHECKS PLANE COURSE

Records Position in Flight Through Triangulation at Ground Station.

CHICAGO, Jan. 4 (U. P.).—Aviation has been offered a radio device which enables ground crews to record the position of a plane in scheduled flight—even if the plane is off the course.

The instrument, said it will register a plane's deviation from the fixed route even though the pilot may be unaware of the condition.

The instrument is a large metallic antenna, rotated by an electric motor atop a high building. The antenna receives short-wave radio messages from the plane and a telephone line indicates the position of the plane on a chart in the dispatcher's office.

Two or more such instruments at different locations can fix the plane's exact position by triangulation. Thus, if the plane were off its course, the dispatcher could inform the pilot of his position and how to return to the scheduled route.

Townsend, at End of Term, Urges New State Office Bldg.

Governor Townsend, looking back over his four years as chief executive of Indiana, believes that his chief error of omission was neglecting to build a new State Office Building.

"Goodness knows that's the one big thing the state needs," the Governor said. "Here we have the State Government spread all over town and we are paying heavy rentals."

"It would be economy in the long run to erect the building. We have the ground and there already has been some architectural work done. It's got to come pretty soon."

He added that he believed such a building would cut down operating costs, too.

At present several large State departments are housed at 141 S. Meridian St. and 148 E. Market St. The Board of Health has its own new building at 1098 W. Michigan St.

The achievement of which the Governor is most proud is the creation of the State Department of Labor.

1092 DRAFTED IN FEBRUARY CALL

Induction to Begin About Feb. 10, Say Indiana Training Aids.

The Army today asked Indiana to provide 1092 draftees in February in addition to the 3152 scheduled for induction from Jan. 14 to Feb. 3.

The February call, coming several days before the induction of the second contingent even begins, signifies that the Army now is ready to carry out the draft program at "top speed," Maj. Lytle Freehafter, head of the mobilization division of the Selective Service staff here, declared.

The February call will be divided into 755 white and 337 Negro selections. Induction is expected to begin about Feb. 10 and continue for 10 days.

Lieut. Col. Robinson Hitchcock, head of the Selective Service Staff, explained that by having information on the number of men required by the Army well in advance of the delivery dates, local boards could in turn notify draftees several weeks prior to their induction.

RESERVE NAVY MAN SENT TO AIR BASE

Richard K. Fisher of Indianapolis has been transferred to the U. S. Naval Reserve Aviation Base at Glenview Ill., for preliminary training as an air cadet.

Meanwhile, it was announced at the Navy Recruiting Office, that 107 men enlisted during December for naval service, two re-enlisted and one signed up for the Navy School of Music.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- 1—Name the capital of Switzerland.
- 2—Does the Vice President of the U. S. receive a 17, 19 or 21-gun salute?
- 3—Which member of the present Cabinet was in the Cabinet of President Hoover?
- 4—Kva. is the abbreviation of what electrical term?
- 5—Are sunspots cooler or hotter than the rest of the sun?
- 6—Belgrade is the capital of Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, or Rumania?

Answers

- 1—Berne.
- 2—Nineteen.
- 3—Henry Stimson.
- 4—Kilovolt-ampere.
- 5—Cooler.
- 6—Yugoslavia.

ASK THE TIMES

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