

Washington Outlook

Roosevelt Foreshadows 'New Role' for America

Predicts World Based on Human Liberty; Latvian Minister to U. S. Awaits Rebirth of His Country.



By BAUKHAZE

National Farm and Home Hour Commentator.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

"Oh, I dream of Jeannie, with the light brown hair, Borne like a vapor on the summer air..."

WASHINGTON. — I heard that sweet, simple song the night after the President delivered his message on the state of the Union. It wasn't a summer day. The Washington monument was a cold pillar in the sunlight, the Potomac a sheet of shimmering metal beyond bare trees. But that song, its beauty born of the suffering of Stephen Foster; the symbolic monument, and the echoing memory of the solemn voice of the President blended together to make an unforgettable moment in which I suddenly seemed to see a changing America, a nation stepping forward on a new and unknown road.

I have said before that many of the President's close advisors believed that he saw, growing out of the war in Europe, a new role for the United States, the role of world leadership. Each day's developments seem to confirm the belief that such is the part Mr. Roosevelt expects the nation to play and that if he can he will direct us in that path, the path he mapped in his two recent speeches.

The America which produced "Jeannie with the light brown hair" had disappeared even before Admiral Dewey blazed the way to empire for America in Manila Bay. The last vestiges of American provincialism were trampled into the mud of France by 2,000,000 pairs of American boots. We thought, and some of us fervently hoped for a while we were going to leave Europe to her own devices, after 1919, forget, if we could the white crosses we left there and tend our own fireside.

Isolationist Sentiment Weakens.

We have tried for a year to stuff up our ears at the roar of the Stukas but each explosion over Europe sounds nearer. The majority of letters which I receive are still very much against any step which would lead us into war but the congressmen coming in for the new session report a weakening of the isolationist feeling.

One thing was clear when the President delivered his message to the joint session of congress on January 6. Although many minds there did not meet his, though much debate was to follow, it was plain that his plan to make America an arsenal for the democracies had majority support, that step by step he was doing the leading and step by step congress was following.

I watched the session from the floor of the house of representatives for radio has a little room at the side of the chamber to the left of the rostrum. There was a long silence when the President was announced. The audience rose and stood with hardly a whisper. Finally the President appeared at the entrance just to the right of the speaker's desk and walked slowly up the ramp between his aide and a secret service man. Then came the applause punctuated with only a few of the shrill "rebel yells." And throughout the speech, with few exceptions, the handclapping came only when the President emphasized a passage.

Foreshadows New Role.

But to me, the significant lines, the ones indicating that the President was foreshadowing this new part he felt America must play, were these:

"In the future days which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. "The first is freedom of speech and expression—everywhere in the world..."

"The third is freedom from want, which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants—everywhere in the world."

Reading them over now in cold type they don't have quite the same effect. But perhaps you recall, if you heard the broadcast, how he emphasized, climactically, the phrase "everywhere in the world." It was plain his concern did not stop at our own frontiers, but "everywhere in the world."

Then he went on to describe his "new order" quite as specifically as

MORSE SALISBURY

Morse Salisbury, whose genial voice has been familiar to millions of Farm & Home hour listeners for a decade, has been made director of information of the department of agriculture. Morse knows a lot more things about most things than most people. He was born in Iowa and grew up in Kansas. He is pint-size and usually looks a little surprised, but never is.

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

Battle Scene Shifts to Mediterranean As Nazis Bolster 'Fading' Italian Army; Willkie Backs FDR on Lease-Lend Bill; U. S. Navy Split Into Three New 'Fleets'

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.) (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

DEFENSE: Parties Split

Congress debated President Roosevelt's plan to loan or lease munitions of war to Great Britain. Party lines were broken and politics forgotten both by political leaders in congress and through the nation. Leading the attack against the bill within congress was Senator Wheeler (D., Mont.), former President Hoover and former Gov. Alf M. Landon, the G. O. P. standard bearer in 1936, lined up behind him.

But President Roosevelt had the support of Wendell L. Willkie, who ran against him last fall. And in the senate he was supported by Senator Austin (R., Maine). Willkie suggested several changes in the measure, however. He proposed that a time limit be fixed during which the President will have exceptional powers to deal with embattled democracies. He also proposed that the nations to be given help be named in the bill.

Administration senators were quick to adopt the view. As the proposal moved into house and senate hearings, amendments were added to carry out the Willkie suggestions. Meanwhile Willkie and three of his

As I said, the world has forgotten this. But Franklin Roosevelt has not. It is within the realm of reason that he feels, having lived and studied these chapters of history, that he may be able to avoid the pitfalls of the past and succeed where Woodrow Wilson failed as a world leader.

Latvian Minister Retains His Post

Alfred Bilmanis has moved. That was not highly important news in the diplomatic chancelleries of the world, although Dr. Bilmanis is, according to our records, a minister plenipotentiary to the United States from Latvia. But it will be of interest to more than one reader of this column who has drunk lemonade in the Latvian legation in Washington, and trooped up the stairs, past the stained glass window to look upon the marvelous maiden of wax in her gay peasant costume and great amber necklace.

For Alfred Bilmanis, like the former head of the little Baltic country now under Russian domination was a great and enthusiastic friend of the Four-H. For many years when the Four-H clubs encamped in the Washington Mall they met this cheerful round-faced man who told them about organization in Latvia which Carl Ulmanis, president of the Baltic state had founded, patterning them after the farm clubs in this country. Ulmanis once before had been driven from his country by the Russian government. He came to America where he became an ardent student of our farms and our farm methods, our agricultural schools and the various activities connected with rural life in this country.

Now Latvia is under the Russian yoke again and the 4,000 young people who were members of the organization which President Ulmanis and his representative in this country, Alfred Bilmanis did so much to encourage, are probably all turned into "Young Communists" if they exist at all. Since the United States government has not recognized the recent seizure of the Baltic states by the Soviets, Dr. Bilmanis still remains minister of Latvia even if Latvia, as a government, no longer exists in Russian eyes. But he was unable to maintain the old legation where he often entertained members of the Four-H and where guests loved to admire his art treasures which he has collected through the years.

The new legation into which Mr. Bilmanis and his charming Polish wife have moved is about half as big as the friendly one with the high front porch which he has had to give up. And there isn't room downstairs for the big, brown leather chair that is his chief pride as a keepsake—Napoleon brought it back from Moscow.

The chair is probably a comforting thought to Mr. Bilmanis, too, for it is a reminder that no Napoleon rules forever, and that when the modern Napoleons fall, his country will be free again.

Mr. Bilmanis is certain of this. He believes England will win, the government of his country will be restored and that he will be able to build his museum. Meanwhile he is second in command of his state for, before the Russians came in, his government, fearing the worst, drew up a secret document appointing their minister to London chief of state in exile. Dr. Bilmanis would succeed him and so it is quite possible that America will be the starting point for another free Latvia, just as the former president secured his support and his inspiration here.

More Planes

Dr. George Mead, aircraft production head of the national defense commission, announced that the nation's three largest automobile corporations had agreed to take a large hand in the making of fighting planes. Ford, General Motors and Chrysler will make parts for 1,200 planes each. They have completed arrangements with Consolidated Aircraft, Douglas and Glenn Martin to make the assemblies. The cheapest of the 3,600 planes will cost \$100,000.

Meanwhile there still is some dispute over the lack of aluminum. The Aluminum Corporation of America, which holds a monopoly, said production has more than doubled and that the firm is spending \$15,000,000 of its own money for further expansion. Since aircraft today is almost wholly aluminum in the bodies, the demand is high and there yet may be a senate investigation over Alco's affairs and national defense.

Otherwise on the defense front: The North Carolina, first battleship to be built for the United States navy in 20 years, will go into commission April 11.

A fighting plane built for the U. S. army attained a speed of 620 miles an hour in a power dive test. It was driven by a reserve officer, Lieut. Andrew C. McDonough. The speed of the plane is faster than sound, so that when it is heard approaching for bombing it is too late to duck—the plane already has passed.

HELP TO ITALY: Germans Take Over

Mussolini began to slip. In Egypt the British bombed him out of the air while on the ground his troops were retreating farther and faster westward until it seemed as though all of eastern Libya would be lost to the Fascist empire. The Greeks were threatening the last line of resistance in southern Albania and there wasn't much for the Italians to fall back on after that.

More and more it became apparent that the Duce's Axis partner would be forced to send German troops to extract the Italians from the tangled mess. Even the Italian home front began to crackle, perhaps the first rumble of revolution. Benito Mussolini was being referred to as Finito Mussolini.

Only German planes appeared, at first piloted by Italians. The planes were sent to Albania. After that followed German "instructors" to teach the Italians how to fight in the air. Finally all pretense was dropped and Germans began to arrive in numbers, taking over Italian bases.

Were the Germans invading Italy? Perhaps not. Maybe it was only a case of holding Italy in "protective custody." Be that as it may, when Germans took up the battle themselves, Italy could no longer be considered an equal partner in the Axis. The Germans don't work that way. They dominated the fight. Mussolini needed their help and could get it only on the German terms.

Mediterranean War

The Germans' first attack came in the Mediterranean, off Catania. Here the inland sea narrows down to a slight channel between Sicily and the North African mainland. Through this channel must flow all British supplies and reinforcements to Greece and Egypt.

A large convoy was passing through the channel escorted by the royal navy, including the 23,000-ton cruiser Southampton. Nazi dive bombers appeared in force and what is believed to be the first battle ever fought between war vessels and aircraft took place. The British admit both war vessels were hit. The Italians claim more were damaged.

The battle ended at nightfall and the British ships made harbor. But the Germans sallied forth the following day and continued raids on British shipping in the Mediterranean for the five days. They said

friends were arranging to go to London during the first days in February. The head of the Republican party wished to see first hand just what was going on in England. He made application to Secretary Hull for a passport. The request was granted in three hours.

The Fleets

Many months ahead of delivery of ships which will give the United States a two-ocean navy, orders were issued which split the present war vessels into three "fleets." The main forces will remain in the Pacific, but there will be an independent command in the Atlantic and a third independent command in Asia. Rear Admiral Husband E. Kimmel was named commander in chief. He and President Roosevelt are old friends. They worked together in another defense problem—when Mr. Roosevelt was assistant secretary of the navy in 1916-1917. At the same time orders were issued to increase the navy personnel from 192,000 to 232,000.

Looking Ahead

The British felt the German force, now based in Italy, may be a definite challenge to the campaign in the Near East. It may mean that Hitler will seek to cut off all communications between England and Cairo. On the other hand the British still anticipate an attack on England itself. And they doubt that the attempt will be long delayed. German bombings of Irish cities were seen as "training" flights toward this objective. The British took no chances. They bombed "invasion ports" in Germany, Holland, Belgium and France nightly.

that 15 ships were sent to the bottom. When the truth can be learned definitely, it may be one of the "classic" battles of history, for it may establish what long has been a moot question—whether aircraft can successfully challenge armed surface craft.

SCHOOLS CRITICIZED: By College Heads

Present-day educational methods are inadequate to cope with the needs of democracy, speakers told the twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Association of American Colleges. Dr. Theodore M. Greene, Princeton philosophy professor, and Dr. John M. Mason, president of Swarthmore college, led the discussion. The Rev. Edward V. Stanford, president of Villanova, agreed with them.

Bomb Destroyer



PHILADELPHIA.—Builder Harry S. Parks of Philadelphia is pictured holding a model of the "Bomb-Proof-Umbrella." Real name of the device is the "Wilford Latta Centrifugal Bomb Destroyer" and a working model has been demonstrated to the War department.

TOO MUCH COTTON: Reduction Asked

Because the export market for cotton has disappeared with the war, Farm Secretary Claude Wickard believes a reduction must be made in the previously announced government production goal of 12,000,000 bales for the 1941 crop. To achieve the cut, he offers cotton growers \$25,000,000 worth of cotton goods free if they will reduce the acreage.

Under the plan, cotton growers would receive stamps which would be redeemable at any retail store for cotton goods. Stamps would be given at the rate of 10 cents for each pound of cotton which farmers normally would have produced on the unplanted portion of their acreage allotment.

For example, a farmer with a 10-acre allotment, would receive \$25 worth of stamps if he planted only nine acres, assuming that his normal yield was 250 pounds per acre. Voluntary reductions will not affect allotments under the 1942 program.

By this method Wickard hoped to prevent further increases of surpluses under the government loan plan and also to increase employment in cotton mills, while allowing cotton farmers to plant more garden and feed crops.

FLU MOVES EAST: Nation Warned

The wave of influenza which began on the West coast during fall swept eastward and by mid-January registered 100,000 victims east of the Mississippi.

In Boston 20,000 children were absent from school. There were 32,000 cases listed in Texas and 45,000 in Memphis. Schools were closed in the Carolinas and Tennessee. Five thousand were ill in St. Louis. In the first two weeks of last year, there were but 9,500 cases in the whole nation.

The National Billiard Tournament went ahead without Willie Hoppe, the first time since he won the championship in 1910. In a preliminary play with Jake Schaeffer, he had appeared in the regulation dinner clothes for two days while his temperature was above 101. When Schaeffer learned about this he withdrew the challenge and the game came to an end.

Most encouraging was that the type of influenza is a mild one, not the fatal type that swept over the nation like a plague in 1917. This year few deaths have been recorded.

Nevertheless, national health service authorities advised people to avoid crowds, to get plenty of rest and eat sparingly of wholesome foods. Extra precautions were being taken in army camps.

MISCELLANY:

Lieut.-Gen. Lord Baden-Powell became famous in Africa in another way. Greatly outnumbered by Boers, he stood them off by sheer bluff and for 217 days stalled an attack. When he returned home to England in 1910, after a life-time on the Dark Continent, he was a national hero. He founded the Boy Scouts, dressed them in short pants, like those worn by the British colonial armies. Last year his health failed and he returned to Africa, where his dreams have always been. He died there at the age of 84, while other British soldiers, also dressed in the short pants, were again making British history in Africa.

Dolores Frances, aged nine, has had her share of tough luck. She contracted infantile paralysis when she was 18 months old. But she had one piece of luck she will always remember. She was chosen as the most typical child aided by the Infantile Paralysis Foundation at Warm Springs. Along with the title went a visit to the White House as the guest of Mrs. Roosevelt.

George Herman ("Babe") Ruth was sued for \$5,000 after an automobile accident on a New Jersey highway.



REPORTER'S PRIVATE PAPERS: Chuck Barnett would have you believe he sent this taunting cable to Adolf Schickelgruber of Berlin: "Hey, long time no seize."

And Victor C. Rodgers, of San Diego, offers this after hearing FDR's last speech: "Better to Pay Taxes Than Belong to the Axis."

Quentin Reynolds, who just returned home from London, is autographing copies of his new book, "The Wounded Don't Cry," to girl friends (married or single) in this manner: "In memory of a glorious weekend at Lake Como."

Quentin's book is crowded with eye-arresting wordage like: "That night I heard the German radio expert report that London had been panicked by the German bombers. I got a cable from New York saying: 'Reports here that London in flames.' There was damage in London all right; there will be further damage, but I don't think London will be ruined or that London will be panicked. They never panicked, Jack Dempsey, did they? Sure they hit him and hurt him and London will be hit and hurt. In fact, it is being hit and hurt today. But what of it? These people know they are in a war and know they've got to take a beating before they've won it. They know that lots of them are going to be killed. Every time the bombers come over they shake the debris out of their eyes, go to the nearest pub, have half a pint of bitter and say: 'Ow many did we get today?'"

The following appeared in Canada: "There'll always be an England and England shall be free. There'll always be a Scotland and nothing will be free."

There is a group called "Alcoholics Anonymous" in New York, the moving spirit being a well known transatlantic flier. The group's aim is to "straighten out any fellow who will even admit he drinks too much" . . . They meet at an illustrator's place and have big "rallies." These "rallies" are attended sometimes by hundreds of lushes, many of whom have been in institutions for alcoholics, etc. . . . They've succeeded where doctors and psychiatrists have failed, working on the theory that only a drunk knows how to talk to a drunk.

Page One heroes don't last long. Remember how we cheered the Finns? . . . Well, Finland's Minister Procope chanced upon reporters and mentioned that he hadn't seen them lately. "My country isn't interesting now," he said unhappily, "nowadays we are just fighting cold and hunger."

THE NEW YORK SCENE:

New York Novelists: Everyone who knew him in St. Louis liked his fine tenor voice. He led the community singing at local bazaars, county fairs and in churches. . . . A visitor from New York heard him one day and induced him to study for the opera. . . . After a few years the St. Louis opera company engaged him as soloist. . . . Last season he toured the concert field with John Charles Thomas. . . . In New York influential friends arranged an audition at the Met. . . . He didn't keep the appointment—stage fright—or something. . . . If those kind friends would to locate their prodigy they will find Rudy Madison singing with the Barber Shop 4 at Bill's Gay 90s.

New Yorkists: Thomas Mitchell's theatrics in Warner's "Flight From Destiny" . . . Olive Major, E. Cantor's new 13-year-old find. A Wensdee night earful. . . . The ditty, "Cheery Blossoms on Capitol Hill" . . . "Who Are These Refugees?" by Isabel Lundberg, and "Hunger and the House Mouse" in the Jan. Harper's. . . . Cosmopolitan magazine's eye-arresting issue.

Typewriter Ribbons: Elbert Hubbard's: God will not examine you for medals or emblems, but for scars. . . . Hugh Johnson's: Christmas—the annual universal binge of decency. . . . T. Gautier's: To love is to admire with the heart; to admire is to love with the mind. . . . Douglas Jerrold's: There are two kinds of readers. Those who let a book go through them. . . . A. O'Malley's: Civilization is the world with its legs lowered. . . . Edna Wood's: She swallowed her pride but it left a lump in her throat. . . . Sylvia Lyons's: Emeralds are rarer than diamonds, because emeralds always match the color of your friends' eyes.

Faces About Town: Randolph Scott twirling the revolving door at the Essex House for lovely Mary Bryan. . . . Gene Autry, soo oo embarrassed, as high school femme students surround him in the same familiar garb. . . . Guy Kibbee's son, John, appearing to be a newspaper man. He's a copy-boy on the Journal American. . . . Jimmy Walker, trying to seem gay in the Stork "club." His pals know that the "denied" divorce talk—is true.



Washington, D. C. PRESIDENT'S POWER

When the blank check, lease-lend bill has been burnt-rushed through congress, the United States may not be at war—but the President will be. He has announced his peace terms—freedom of speech and of worship, social security and the end of wars through disarmament—not merely in Europe but "everywhere in the world" including, of course, Russia. This is the new world-wide New Deal with our taxpayers and workers, as they did for the American New Deal, paying as much of the whole bill as the President shall determine. Mr. Roosevelt has also announced the kind of peace in which he will not "acquiesce." People who are not at war don't prescribe either the kind of peace that will be accepted or the kind that won't.

The President also asks for ultimate power to dispose all the war strength in America, except manpower (maybe?) to fight for whom and at any place he decides—all our guns, ships, planes, shells, rifles, all our materials and facilities for production and, by the same token, if not all our wealth, then at least billions of it. He can send as much or as little into the battle lines as he decides, and that is nothing less than the position of international commander-in-chief.

What is requested is the complete strength of the nation in economic war—and in these modern days that is 90 per cent of military war with a margin over as deadly as military war, if not more so.

This astonishing bill was prepared under the direction of Mr. Morgenthau in the treasury and there is good reason to believe that neither Secretary Stimson of war, Secretary Knox of navy and Secretary Hull of state was consulted on its terms before it was published. Somebody beside Henry the Morgue ought to be consulted before we buy a ticket to perdition.

We have no effective naval vessels to send without hurting our navy. We can send no modern tanks, planes or guns that wouldn't delay the training of our army. Aid to Britain, yes, but in this momentary hysterical spasm, can't somebody be thinking one little thought about the interest and security of the United States.

LEASE-LEND BILL

What would have happened if two months ago anybody had proposed the lease-lend bill giving the President unlimited authority to engage in economic and possibly military war "everywhere in the world," to provide a world-wide bill of rights for people "anywhere in the world," and whether they want it or not?

Nobody can say precisely what would have happened, but the chances certainly are strong that it would even have had a hearing. Certainly, earlier, nobody could have campaigned for office and such a bill.

What has happened in the meantime to incite public sentiment to entertain such a perilous course, such a revolution in our system of government, such an all-out totalitarianism in the United States? Certainly not any greater danger to the belligerent nations that have our sympathy. There have been some terrible bombings of cities, but, if anything, their actual military position has been much improved.

What has happened is the most effective war-ballyhoo and propaganda headed by a few sincere and masterful but certainly very rash men. Over the air, in the mail, in the press, their voices for war have been continuous and many times the volume of any voice for caution.

Popular polls have asked hypothetical military questions on which no mere layman would be likely to have the facts and professional knowledge to express any valuable opinion—such as, "Do you think Britain will lose the war, if we do not give her all aid?" Lacking access to any guiding facts, except the incessant haranguing of the war-criers, who themselves are not much more competent to give an opinion, these "sample" voters say "yes" in substantial majorities to the question: "Shall we go to war?"

It is mostly fantastical nonsense, this government by harangue and unofficial plebiscite, but the result is not nonsense. It is the stark national tragedy of the lease-lend bill; subjecting the welfare of our country in war to the discretion of a single man, who, with almost unlimited war powers in the past for preparation and defense, has not used them wisely or well. If he had, we should be in no such panic as we are today.

Just as the public has been warped and tom-tommed by equivoical propaganda into even considering such a bill, so that bill itself is not candid. It would be far better and more honest to appropriate \$3,000,000,000 to lend or give Britain, Greece or China to be spent here for munitions, than to authorize the President to engage our entire strength in arms and resources in economic war "everywhere in the world" and to guarantee freedom of speech and worship and from want and war "anywhere in the world."

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by CARTER FIELD

"Overage" destroyers raise question of keeping U. S. navy up to date . . . Guarded talk shows Administration holds ban on Japanese silk as reserve weapon.

(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

WASHINGTON.—There has been so much talk about "overage" destroyers, and so much about the necessity of "capacity" to build as being more important than actual ships or planes, on the theory that the actual fighting craft might soon become obsolete, whereas the capacity to produce them would lend itself to improvements in construction, that a little study should be given, before the next armistice, to what course should be followed when the shooting stops.

The keels of 97 of these much talked about "overage" destroyers were laid AFTER the armistice of November, 1918! They cost the government \$181,000,000.

Now everyone at the time, if anyone had stopped to think, knew that was a foolish thing for the government to do. Actually it was against the old practice of the navy department. It was only a few years before that happened that the navy had delayed awarding contracts for new battleships for several years in order to take every possible advantage of newest developments.

But the point here is that the naval officers responsible for this delay—the same men who permitted the laying of the keels of 97 unnecessary destroyers after November, 1918—knew perfectly well that the destroyers they were permitting to be built were headed for storage in grease, and nothing else.

RESTRICTED CONSTRUCTION

Their mere presence, in grease, in the years that followed prevented the navy from getting modern destroyers.

And notice that at the time all this post-war construction was rushed through, there was not the slightest notion that an arms conference was coming which would stop new construction and freeze navies at their existing strength. That did not come until the winter of 1921-22, though quite possibly the greatly added strength of the U. S. navy caused by this construction made other nations the more willing to stop the armament race.

But few naval officers have ever thought anything except that the arms conference was a disaster for America! Which again does not attribute wisdom to that feverish post-war construction.

So it is to be hoped that at the close of THIS war a more sane policy will prevail as to the use of the enormous capacity we will have on our hands for the construction of both ships and planes.

U. S. THREATENS SILK IMPORT BAN

The most significant thing in our foreign relations at present is not the nature of the repercussions from the menace to Germany and Italy in President Roosevelt's address to congress, but a much less publicized activity of the government regarding restricting or banning imports of silk from Japan.

Publicity about this is perhaps even more interesting than the threat itself. No one is shouting it from the housetops, but apparently every government official involved, from the White House down to the humblest clerk in the department of commerce, is under orders to say practically the same thing. That same thing is, boiled down, that there is no economic necessity for restricting or banning imports of silk at this time—that such an action would be purely POLITICAL.

In short, the administration wants Japan to know that this government has had the banning of silk imports under serious consideration; wants Japan to know that there is no economic reason why this should become a necessity, but that some POLITICAL motive might bring it about overnight!

If Japan should attack the Dutch East Indies, for example, that just MIGHT be the spark that would start the ban against silk imports.

"INFLUENCE" JAPAN

The hope of the administration, incidentally, is not to crush Japan economically, but to detach Japan, partly by blandishments but mostly by threats, from the Nazi-Fascist group.

Which brings us down to the question of just how seriously the sudden stoppage of silk shipments to the United States would affect Japan. From the ordinary business standpoint, the blow would be terrific. Japan's sales of silk to this country are far and away her best source of the exchange she needs so badly to pay for imports she must make.

But, once the step were taken, the United States would lose its chief weapon for keeping Japan in line. Japan then would have nothing more to suffer from any further economic step by the United States.