

PRESS CALLS FOR ACTION

Hopes the Public Will Be Roused to Wipe Out a 'National Disgrace.'

OFFICIALS ARE RETICENT

Gov. Hoffman's Only Comment Is That Flier Must Have Had a 'Sufficient Reason.'

FAMILY WELL OUT AT SEA

Colonel, Wife, and Son They Seek to Safeguard Are On the American Importer.

By LAUREN D. LYMAN.

Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, his wife and their 3-year-old son, Jon, driven into voluntary exile by threats against the child, were well on their way last night to England, where they expect to make their permanent home.

Driving against rough seas, their vessel, the American Importer, 7,590-ton combination freighter and passenger ship, was nearing the "ocean corner," the spot where outbound craft turn toward Europe.

Tonight she will be following the "Great Circle" course—a lane only a little to the south of the one the then unknown flier followed on his famous flight to Paris eight years ago.

News Hard to Believe.

It was a stunned world that awoke yesterday morning to learn that Colonel Lindbergh had taken this step. At first many did not believe the news and friends of the Morrow and Lindbergh families were quoted early in the day as denying that the famous flier with his wife and child had embarked on anything more important than a "brief Christmas holiday trip."

These "friends" sought to discount the fear that had come to be a part of the daily life of the family, but later when it was pointed out that this Christmas holiday trip was being made on a small vessel over the North Atlantic in the dead of Winter there were no more denials.

In some quarters it was said that the Lindberghs would stay in England only until after the Hauptmann case has quieted down and would then come back again. The fact is, however, that they are prepared to remain in England for years.

Concerning the reasons advanced for Colonel Lindbergh's sudden decision to quit the State that he had come to look upon as home its chief officials had very little to say.

Washington Reaction Prompt.

Washington reaction, however, was prompt and before the day was over members of the coming Congress were discussing informally with each other the possibility of more stringent legislation and a more rigid application of existing laws.

In contrast to the statements from the nation's capital, Governor Harold G. Hoffman, of New Jersey merely remarked, as he was leaving a dinner tendered him by the State House janitors in Trenton, that Colonel Lindbergh must have had "sufficient reason for taking this action." Pressed for further comment, he merely shook his head and smiled.

Attorney General David T. Wilentz, who was the chief prosecutor at the trial of Bruno Richard Hauptmann, and Colonel H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commanding the State police organization, which Colonel Lindbergh had praised from the witness stand at Flemington, likewise were silent on the matter except for a terse "No comment."

Press Is Indignant.

Throughout the country the situation that forced the departure was declared by the press to be "a national disgrace," a "humiliating reflection" on law and order in the United States. One paper blamed "yellow journalism," others "inexcusable meddling" in the Lindberghs' private life, and several held the intervention of Governor Hoffman into the Hauptmann case to have been "the determining factor" in bringing about the decision.

Most newspapers expressed the hope that the family's action would stir American public opinion into concerted action against crime in

Continued on Page Two.

LINDBERGH EXILE SHOCKS AMERICA

Continued From Page One.

general and kidnapping in particular.

The news was received in England with a surprise that was tinged with pride. Before the rest of the country had heard the news the law enforcement agencies had already gone into action. On the receipt of a cable from Police Commissioner Valentine of New York, asking that the best protection be afforded the Lindberghs, Scotland Yard officials laid their plans and almost before the American Importer was out of sight of land orders had been issued. Detectives received photographs of Colonel Lindbergh and local policemen and constables were instructed to be especially vigilant.

While the chiefs of New Jersey's legal, executive and police divisions had no comment there was a word of sympathy from one of the lawyers who is fighting to save Hauptmann from the electric chair, Egbert Rosecrans of Blairstown, N. J.

"I don't blame the Lindberghs for wanting to get away from all that they have been forced to endure," he said, "and I am sure no one has anything but the most profound sympathy for them."

Colonel Mark O. Kimberling, warden of the State penitentiary, an appointee of Governor Hoffman's, who permitted the Governor to make a secret call on Hauptmann last October, was asked if the condemned man had been informed of the departure of the Lindberghs.

He shook his head. "I don't think that I will tell him," he said. "I shall leave that in the hands of the defense attorneys."

Without any criticism of Colonel Kimberling being implied, the fact that he is reported to be Governor Hoffman's choice to replace Colonel Schwarzkopf as head of the State Police was among the final items in the series of incidents that drove Colonel Lindbergh to turn to another country for a haven. This proposed change has been interpreted as political, along with the Governor's recent activity in the Hauptmann case.

The injection of politics into the operation of the State Police organization and the very law of the State itself, as Colonel Lindbergh saw it, was a step toward upsetting the efficiency of a body of men he had come to look upon as the best protection his family had.

One recent incident that influenced the Lindberghs was the frightening of little Jon by camera men who forced the teacher driving him home from school to the curb with their larger car. In this connection it was noted that the picture obtained on that occasion was published in an early edition of a

New York paper this morning. The child had not been returned to school since that incident.

This was not the first time, it was recalled last night, that methods that carried the implication of a threat to the boy's safety have been used, whether designedly or not, to get a picture. One day last year a truck pulled up near the school. When Jon was being escorted to his home there suddenly appeared from behind the truck's curtains something like metal barrels, which were pointed directly at the boy. A moment later the truck sped away.

An alarm for its capture was broadcast and the State Police turned out in scores for the hunt. Late that day the truck was captured and it was then disclosed that its occupants were camera men ordered to "get the picture" and not to come back without it. The same news picture organization, it was declared yesterday, engineered both expeditions.

The Lindberghs believe that nothing like that will happen in England. They even planned their quick ride from their home to the steamship pier to avoid any such contingency. Instead of using one of their own cars, the license plates of which might be recognized, they hired a cab for the trip.

It was nearly midnight when they reached the West Twentieth Street pier in Manhattan and went aboard the American Importer, quietly and unnoticed. Even then there was delay because of a threatened strike of the radio operators and it was almost three hours later when the blunt little vessel started down the bay.

Booking Kept Secret.

Preparations for the voyage had been made directly by Colonel Lindbergh with Basil Harris, vice president of the United States Lines. Mr. Harris said yesterday that he had handled the booking and had given his promise to keep the whole plan secret.

The Lindberghs, it was explained, paid the regular tariff rate for a family group of three, a total of \$280 plus the United States tax of \$13. Nothing was said about a return passage and, so far as could be learned, that matter was not discussed at all.

Mr. Harris said that neither officers nor members of the crew had any advance knowledge that the Lindberghs were to be the passengers.

The American Importer is due in Liverpool on Dec. 30. The Lindberghs may stay that night in a Liverpool hotel.

On leaving the port the Lindberghs expect to visit friends. It is possible that they may go for a time to the home of Aubrey Neil Morgan, near Cardiff, Wales. Mr. Morgan was the husband of Mrs. Lindbergh's sister, Elizabeth, who died last December in California following an emergency operation for appendicitis. He also sailed on Saturday, but took passage aboard the Westernland, a faster vessel than the American Importer.