

Behind the News

By David Thompson.

Compromise?

The truth of the rumours aired in this column earlier this week as to Japan's desire to compromise with the U. S. was substantiated by official sources yesterday who announced that Saburo Karusu, the envoy who signed the Japanese - German - Italian agreement in 1940, is enroute to the U. S. today. In the minds of most Far Eastern observers it is a last ditch effort on the part of Japan to stave off a war that the Japanese are pretty certain will occur and soon.

Talks have been going on between the Japanese and the U. S. since Aug. but they have been meeting with one stalemate after another. Kurusu's trip, then, may be a last effort by one of Japan's ablest diplomats to explain the Japanese position in the Pacific and in doing so to convince the U. S. that Japan is not a threat to our position in southeastern Asia.

To convince Washington officials of that will take more than the polished words of an excellent diplomat, however, for Japan, in a decade of aggressions, has pretty well indicated the character of that nation with which we have to deal in the Pacific.

Japan has been complaining of the encirclement tactics of the U. S., British and Dutch in the Pacific. In reality Japan has brought about her own encirclement, by her southward movement into Thailand and Indo-China. By such a move into the middle of numerous British, Dutch and U. S. bases at Hong Kong, Manila, Singapore, and the Dutch East Indies, the Japanese have to all practical effects encircled themselves. This is the opinion of our navy department which contends that Japan has made herself 100 percent more vulnerable to military and naval action by her southward movement, and the necessity of having to supply men in these areas through seas that will be made infernos by submarines and bombers.

Japan has been under heavy pressure by Germany in the last few weeks to declare herself in this world conflict, and the Japanese are feverishly hunting for a way out of the dilemma in which they find themselves. Kurusu's mission then may also be an attempt on the part of Japan to find a "face saving" method by which they can extricate themselves from their agreement of Aug. 1940 with the Axis. If the U. S. will grant them certain things in the Pacific, they may find it worthwhile to disregard German demands, if not the Japanese newspapers threaten war with the U. S. in a hurry.

They can't bluff the U. S.

Council . . .

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percent of students work (according to the 2,000 vote), and tabulations of the different occupations, as to wages, hours, conditions and type of work are now being compiled.

Bringing in a note of social life, was the positive vote that the council meet for lunch for the first time Monday noon in the main dining room of the Union. It was also decided that two or three professors be invited to each of these luncheon get-togethers, which will probably take place every other week. Prof. Lantz, council advisor and Prof. Carl Arndt will be the guests at the first gathering.

President Thiel reported the need for secretarial help in the council office. Members of organized houses were urged to procure the services of freshmen and pledges who are in need of activity points. Programs of the council's purpose and work for the year were handed out and discussed.

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