Kidnapping of Lindbergh Baby Is Climax of Nation-Wide 'Abduction Racket'

ENTIRE CITY FORCE HUNTS KIDNAPPERS

Mulrooney Orders 19,000 Men to Press Search Even While They Are Off Duty.

BABY FARMS ARE WATCHED

House-to-House Canvass Begun in Tenement Areas—Heavy Guard at Terminals.

EARLY SOLUTION EXPECTED

From Previous Cases, Detectives Believe Child Will Be Abandoned if Not Returned Soon.

Spurred by the world interest in the son of Colonel Lindbergh and by Commissioner Mulrooney's characterization of the kidnapping as "a vicious outrage," the entire New York Police Department plunged yesterday into the hunt for the child and the persons who took him.

It was the greatest police effort in the history of the city. Every man of the entire 19,000 on the force was put on the case, with orders to work on it in their own time as well as during their hours on duty, doing without sleep if necessary. In addition the families of all members of the police force were instructed to be on the alert for any information concerning strange babies in their neighborhoods or for any unusual actions which might throw a light on the crime. It was the first time in history that such an action had been taken.

Meanwhile, the whole vast machinery that the Police Department can set in motion to guard the gates of the city and check up on its residents had been put in motion. Every approach to the city by tunnel, ferry boat, train and highway was watched, and virtually a house-to-house search was begun in the congested districts where criminals with such delicate booty as the Lindbergh baby would be most likely to hide.

Hospitals and Hotels Searched.

Detectives and patrolmen began a painstaking search of hospitals, hotels, nursing homes and the like. This phase of the search was aided by the Children's Society under the direction of General Manager Ernest K. Coulter and Superintendent Vincent Pisarra. Twenty-two agents of the society began a tour of the baby farms and homes where children are boarded, urging the proprietors to examine carefully all children brought to them. There are 196 baby farms listed in Manhattan and probably fifty or more which are not listed.

But despite the energy and thoroughness of the search, nothing definite concerning the whereabouts of the Lindbergh child had been found last evening.

Commissioner Mulrooney, who went to his office immediately on learning of the kidnapping on Tuesday night to direct New York's participation in the search, addressed more than 200 detectives and higher police officials yesterday morning at lineup, telling them with evident intensity of feeling to leave no stone unturned to find the child.

Entire Force Put on Case.

"I want the department commanders to have their uniformed men make investigations in the areas of the city where the kidnappers might hide out," said Mr. Mulrooney. "I want them to be alert and on their toes to follow any clue, no matter how slight. The kidnappers may try to hide themselves and the child in some congested area of the city, and every patrolman must comb his beat for newcomers. I want every patrolman to make inquiries in the tenements and wherever a child might be kept.

"I want every detective to take advantage of the slightest piece of information about this case. I want the entire department to work on this case in its time off, to go without sleep if necessary to find this child. Every policeman on beat must make full inquiries about any one entering a building with a child."

Later the Commissioner sent the following order by teletype to stations throughout the five boroughs:

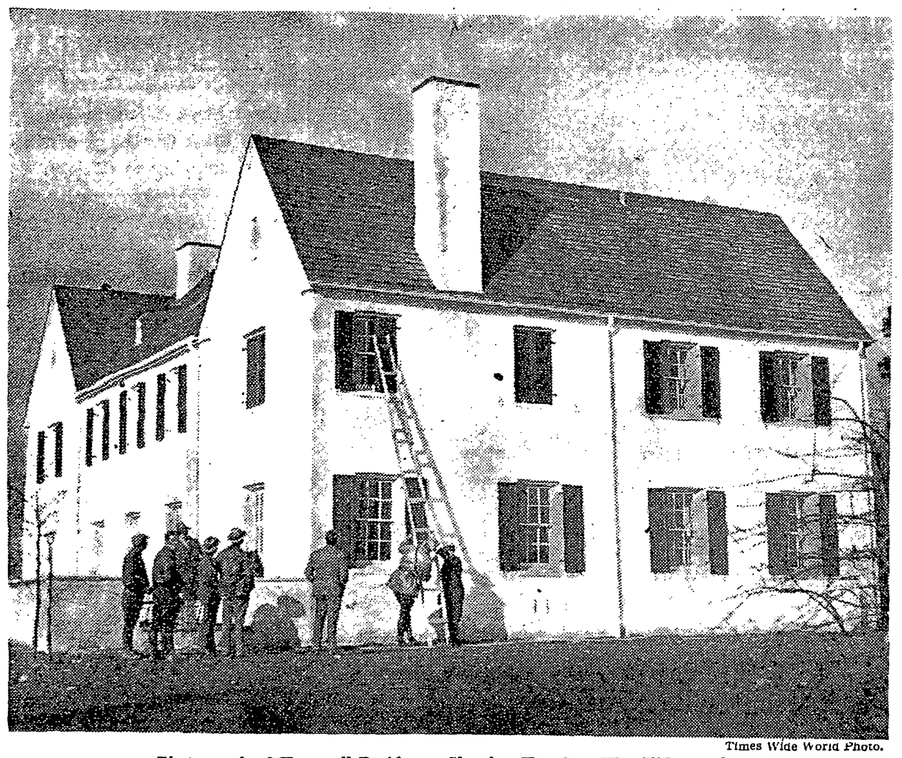
"Colonel Lindbergh's baby, a boy, 19 months old, dressed in a sleeping suit, was kidnapped between 7:30 P. M. and 10 P. M., March 1, 1932, from the Lindbergh home in Hopewell, N. J. All members of the force will be particularly vigilant in an effort to recover the baby and arrest the kidnappers. Special attention will be given to and careful inquiry and a thorough investigation will be made in thickly populated, congested residential districts, hospitals, nurseries and hotels, particularly the small and cheaper ones."

Search Expected to Be Short.

There was a feeling at headquarters, based on previous experience with kidnappers, that unless the child was returned within seventy-two hours, either with or without the payment of the ransom, he would be abandoned. Detectives predicted that the kidnappers would realize within this period that there was such an enormous interest in the Lindbergh case that their wisest course would be to give up their attempt at extortion and flee. Some detectives thought that the abductors of the Lindbergh baby might be the same persons who threatened in 1920 to abduct Miss Constance Morrow, the baby's aunt, who was then a student at Milton Academy. The details of this attempt were never made public.

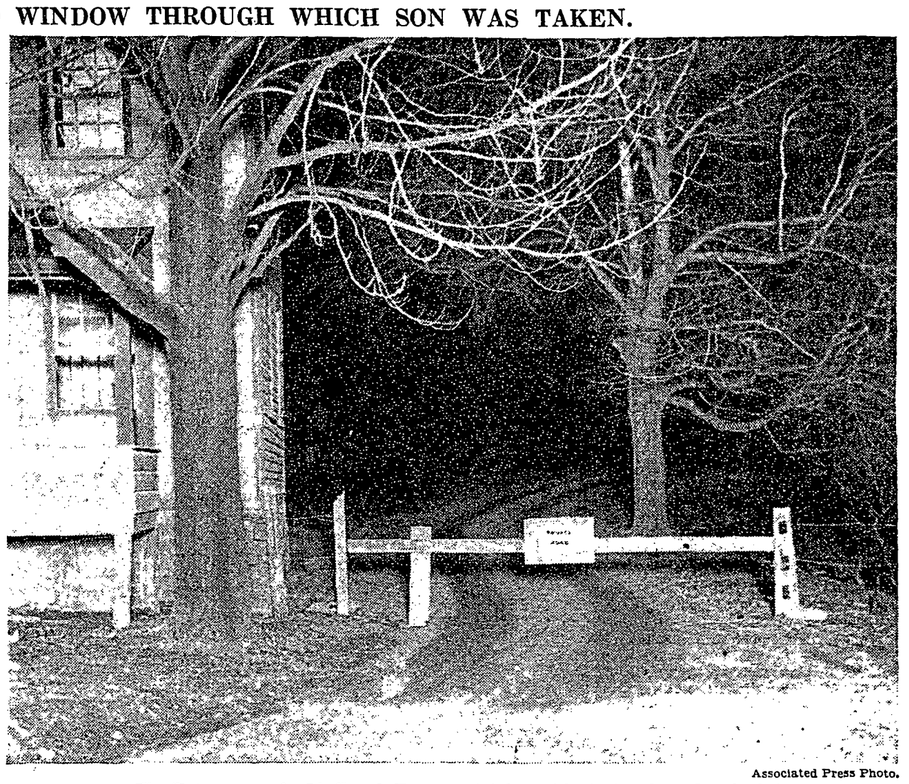
The very daring of the crime inclined the police to believe that the kidnappers were not of the "professional" type, which has been increasingly active in recent years, but that they were persons who had somehow obtained information about the layout of the Lindbergh home and the habits of the household and had determined to profit by that knowledge without realizing what it would involve.

THE LINDBERGH HOME WITH LADDER UP TO WINDOW THROUGH WHICH SON WAS TAKEN.



Times Wide World Photo.

Photograph of Hopewell Residence, Showing How Boy Was Kidnapped.



Associated Press Photo.

The Entrance to the Lindbergh Estate at Night, With the Roadway Barricaded.

Mother Told to Keep Up Hope By One Who Recovered Child

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., March 2 (AP).—Mrs. Ernst F. W. Alexanderson, whose 6-year-old son, Verner, was held by kidnappers for six days in 1923, said today that Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh must have confidence that her baby will be restored to her.

"She must not despair—she must not give up hope of getting her baby back," Mrs. Alexanderson said. "Belief that I would get my child back was the thought that kept me up while Verner was in the hands of kidnappers and I did not know where he was."

Verner, the young son of a noted radio research engineer, was kidnapped in May, 1923, by two men who promised to give him a rabbit. He was taken northward in an automobile and was found six days later at a fishing camp on Indian River, near the Jefferson County hamlet of Theresa. Both abductors were arrested later and sentenced to prison.

Lindbergh Baby Shown in Go-Cart, *Photo From Pathe News* Being an Enlargement of a Motion Picture Film Made Recently.

Times Wide World Photo.

A Recent Picture of the Lindbergh Baby Given Out Yesterday by His Father

Description of Lindbergh Baby; Face Resembles His Mother's

The following description of the kidnapped son of Colonel and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh was furnished to the police yesterday:

Age, 20 months. Eyes, blue. Hair, fair and curly. Complexion, fair. Weight, 30 pounds. Height, 2 feet 9 inches.

At the time of his abduction he was dressed in a white sleeping suit. He is able to walk a little and to talk, although as yet he uses only the few simple words such as a child beginning to talk would know. He is said to resemble his father as to hair, but his eyes and facial features are those of his mother, allowing for the chubbiness of a baby face. He has a dimple in his chin.

LINDBERGH IS READY TO RANSOM HIS SON

Continued from Page One.

eral Mitchell. This conference was followed by orders to the members of every law-enforcing agency of the Federal Government to aid State and local authorities in solving the audacious crime.

It re-echoed in the halls of Congress and in the chambers of State Legislatures in demands that the laws be amended to make kidnapping a crime punishable by death. Prayers were offered in churches for the safe return of the missing child, and in Newark, where it was thought for a time the kidnappers had been cornered, a mob gathered in lynching mood.

Avalanche of "Clues."

The furore that swept the country as news of the crime spread over it brought in an avalanche of clues and "tips," most of which proved worthless. It seemed that every constable between Mexico and Canada spent the day searching automobiles at bridgeheads and ferries, and the number of women and babies who came under their suspicion was staggering.

From the mass of confusing detail that piled up, one fact stood forth clearly. That was that the kidnappers must have been familiar with the plan of the house and with Colonel Lindbergh's plans as well. Not only did they place a ladder against a window of the nursery which Mrs. Lindbergh had tried unsuccessfully to lock, but they chose a night for the crime which the aviator had announced he would spend in New York attending a New York University dinner. His attendance at the dinner had been widely advertised and it was only because he had his dates mixed up that Colonel Lindbergh happened to be at home.

In Albany Governor Roosevelt ordered Major John A. Warner, Superintendent of State Police, to place every facility at his command at the disposal of New Jersey authorities working on the case. In Trenton Governor A. Harry Moore and legislative leaders prepared to authorize the payment of rewards totaling $35,000 for the capture of the kidnappers, but deferred action at Colonel Lindbergh's request. He feared, it was said, that the offer of a reward might hamper efforts to establish communication with the criminals.

After conferring with the police officials of the metropolitan area Governor Moore designated Deputy Chief Frank E. Brex of Newark and Thomas J. Wolfe, Chief of Police of Jersey City, to cooperate with Colonel Norman Schwarzkopf, head of the State Troopers engaged in the search. The move was designed to establish better coordination between State and local police and to bring the crack detectives of the cities into action.

As the Governor's action was taken, the Provincial Police of Canada and the Texas Rangers joined in the search with Department of Justice operatives, postal inspectors, immigration and customs men, including prohibition agents, at the international borders. Even steamship sailings were watched.

Precautions were taken in the meantime to guard other members of the family. Mr. Lindbergh's mother-in-law, the widow of the late Senator Dwight W. Morrow, hurried to her daughter's side, and although another daughter, Elizabeth, accompanied her, her home in Englewood, N. J., was placed under the protection of a large police guard.

Constance Morrow, Mrs. Morrow's youngest daughter, who is a freshman at Smith College, in Northampton, Mass., was protected by two plainclothes men of the local police department, who accompanied her about the campus and watched the entrance to her dormitory. It was recalled that three years ago extortioners threatened her with death unless her family paid $50,000. On that occasion, Colonel Lindbergh took her in his airplane from the school to her mother's country home at North Haven, Me.

Meager Clues Are Studied.

The police who swarmed up the steep and rocky road that leads to the Lindbergh home in its hilly fastness concentrated their efforts on the few clues the kidnappers left behind them. There was a rickety, home-made ladder which they searched for fingerprints, a chisel, apparently used to jimmy the nursery window, which was closed but not locked, and there were traces of footprints in the muddy road. Handwriting experts studied the ransom note, while detectives questioned Betty Gow, the baby's nurse, and Ollie Wheatley, the butler, and his wife.

These meager clues were augmented by tales of suspicious-looking cars mysteriously parked on lonely roads, of strangers inquiring the way to the Lindbergh home and by endless theories offered by neighboring farmers thrown into the midst of a kidnapping mystery that for sensationalism has not been equaled since Charlie Ross was coaxed from a lawn in Germantown some sixty years ago.

Postcard Sent to Flier.

Of all the clues the day brought forth, however, the most promising of all was that provided by the scrawl on a penny postcard, dropped in a letter box in Newark. The card was addressed in pencil to "Chas. Linberg, Princeton, N. J." In crudely printed characters it bore this message:

"Baby safe. Instructions later. Act accordingly."

There was no signature. The police, expecting the kidnappers would attempt to communicate with Colonel Lindbergh by mail, had asked the postal authorities to be on the watch for any suspicious-looking missive addressed to the aviator or his wife. Maurice Grady, a postal clerk, spotted the card on the sorting table and turned it over to Superintendent of Mails John Lonergan.

Superintendent Lonergan gave the card to the police at once. A detail of 150 policemen and more than fifty firemen were rushed at once to the district in which the card was mailed and began a house-to-house search for the kidnappers and the baby, which was not without interesting results. As the search went on word spread through the section that the criminals had been cornered and a crowd gathered, mumbling menacing threats against the baby's captors.

"Dark Man" the Purchaser.

It was soon learned that the postcard had been purchased by a "dark, soft-spoken man" from a postoffice substation and candy store at Plane Street and Central Avenue, Newark, a block from the spot where it was posted a few minutes after noon. Irving Ring, clerk in the substation and candy store, remembered the transaction because, he said, he had had only two customers for postcards in the forenoon, and one was a woman he knew.

Subsequently it was learned that a man answering the description given by Ring had been seen only a block away from the postoffice substation at 1:30 P. M. Mrs. Annie Fischer of 89 Bleecker Street told detectives that a sedan containing three men and a woman who had a baby wrapped in a blanket stopped in front of her house about that time. The man got out and asked if she could rent a few rooms for light housekeeping, she said, and upon being told that she could not accommodate him, reentered the car and drove away.

Mrs. Fischer, who had not read the morning newspapers and did not know of the kidnapping, thought nothing of the incident until the police questioned her several hours afterward. She recalled the stranger, however, as "a smooth-spoken fellow," conservatively dressed in dark, unobstrusive clothing. He was short and stocky, she said, weighing perhaps 150 pounds. His hair was dark and he was smooth-shaven, according to both descriptions.

Crowds Swarm to Scene.

The officials directing the search for the nation's most famous baby shifted their headquarters at nightfall from the Lindbergh home near Hopewell to Trenton. All through the day the roads leading to the Lindbergh country home were black with cars filled with sight-seers, who made the comings and goings of officials both hazardous and slow.

Above the house large passenger air-liners circled and banked so that the occupants could gaze from above at the house on a hilltop, its lawns dotted with hurrying blue-coated figures of the police and the less colorfully dressed newspaper men and photographers who swarmed to the scene.

The influx of the army that sent the news to London and Paris and other cities here and abroad, where it covered the front pages of newspapers, placed too great a strain upon the local facilities for communication if not upon the hospitality of Colonel Lindbergh. He did his best to make them comfortable in the garage beneath his house.

Among the officials and unofficial observers Colonel Lindbergh came and went, his eyes red-rimmed from sleeplessness, his jaw set as it was when he climbed into the cockpit of his plane on the start of his flight to Paris. He had little to say to questioners. There was little that he could say.

RADIO'S FACILITIES SEEK KIDNAPPERS

New Jersey State Police Head Broadcasts Appeal to All Law-Abiding Citizens.

MANY BULLETINS ISSUED

Prayers for Baby's Return Also Put on the Air—Ex-Senator France Links Case to Prohibition.

The radio facilities of the nation were pressed into service yesterday to assist the authorities in the widespread search for Charles A. Lindbergh Jr.

Last night Colonel H. Norman Schwarzkopf, superintendent of the New Jersey State police, made a direct appeal by radio to the law-abiding citizens of New Jersey and neighboring States to enlist in the hunt for Colonel Lindbergh's kidnapped son.

Throughout the day the various broadcasting stations issued bulletins announcing the new developments. In the forenoon prayers for the safe return of the infant were said at a service broadcast over WNYC, in which clergymen of three denominations took part.

Colonel Schwarzkopf's appeal was made from the New Jersey State Police Headquarters in Trenton and broadcast by WOR. He declared that failure to solve the crime would bring into jeopardy every home in the State and also in neighboring States.

Asks Active Aid of All.

"All the police agencies of the State are doing everything possible to obtain the safe and sound release of Colonel Lindbergh's son, but that is not sufficient," he said. "We need the active cooperation of all law-abiding citizens.

"Criminals cannot get away with a crime of this kind when the eyes of all the public are watching for them. We feel it is vitally necessary for the entire body of citizens to assist in our search, to watch for any suspicious or unusual circumstances, to search in their vicinity and to report all suspicious circumstances to their local police and to the State police."

The telephone number of the New Jersey State Police Headquarters is Trenton 4212.

At the Trenton (N. J.) headquarters, officials of WOR, acting under instructions from Colonel Schwartzkopf, installed lines and a microphone for direct broadcasting of information as released by the police. The microphone and an engineering crew was maintained all night at headquarters for the use of the police. Several other radio stations installed microphones near the State Police Headquarters.

Diet of Baby Broadcast.

The National Broadcasting Company, which announced last night that it would keep Stations WEAF and WJZ on the air throughout the night to inform the public of developments, sent out over its combined networks the diet on which the baby has been subsisting, requesting the kidnappers to give him the proper food and treatment.

The diet, which was given to the press earlier in the day, was set forth in an appeal by the Governors and other State and local officials of both New York and New Jersey on behalf of the child.

Former Senator Joseph I. France of Maryland, in discussing the Constitution over the N. B. C. networks last night, linked the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby to the evils of prohibition. He asserted that the crime was "the supreme climax of defiance of law and order."

"Our righteous, visible republic stands helpless to enforce its laws against the unseen republic of racketeers, to prevent such hideous crimes as this," the former Senator said. "It will remain helpless so long as it is under the leadership of men who fear to speak frankly and act boldly and honestly upon every question and every crisis."

The prayers for the child's safe return were broadcast at 11:30 A. M. The clergymen who took part in the half-hour service were the Rev. Joseph P. McComas, vicar of St. Paul's Chapel, Trinity Church; Mgr. William E. Cashin, rector of St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church, and Rabbi Samuel J. Levinson of Temple Beth Emeth, Brooklyn.

How News Was Broadcast.

A NEW YORK TIMES news bulletin containing the first news of the kidnapping was broadcast over the Columbia Broadcasting System's network soon after the crime was discovered. The news shocked a nation-wide audience which had been listening to the lively tunes of a dance orchestra playing in Chicago.

When the word was first received at the Columbia system's headquarters on Madison Avenue, it was relayed by telegraph on a private monitor wire to the control room of the company's Chicago studio. There Harlow Wilcox, the announcer, picked up the bulletin and at 12:14 A. M. he read the message over the WABC network. The message read:

"Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., 1½-year-old son of Colonel and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh, was kidnapped just after dark tonight [Tuesday] from his crib in the Lindbergh home at Hopewell, N. J. He was dressed in his sleeping clothes."

At 12:30 A. M. the announcer read another bulletin, giving information obtained by Columbia officials over the long-distance telephone from the New Jersey State Police Headquarters.

The telephone switchboard of the N. B. C. was flooded with calls yesterday from listeners who had suggestions to make in connection with the case. Several requested that Mrs. Lindbergh make a plea by radio for her baby's safe and speedy return. Others suggested that the baby's diet be broadcast.

KIDNAPPING WAVE SWEEPS THE NATION

Lindbergh Crime Is Climax of Development of Abductions Into a Major Racket.

RINGS CENTRE IN MIDWEST

Leading Citizens in the Chicago Area Are Compelled to Band for Self-Protection.

The kidnapping of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., topping a long list of kidnappings in recent years, serves to emphasize the fact that abduction for ransom has become "a big money crime," taking its place beside the liquor, vice and drug traffic among the prominent "rackets" of the country.

Authorities pointed out yesterday that there had been a big wave of kidnapping during the past two years, when more than 2,000 persons were abducted for ransom in the country. During these two years kidnapping syndicates have arisen and have extorted millions of dollars from their victims or their relatives and friends by means of torture or terrorization.

It is estimated that in Illinois alone, during 1930 and 1931, there were 400 kidnappings, according to Alexander Jamie, chief investigator for the "Secret Six," a Chicago organization devoted to fighting organized crime. Forty-nine of the Illinois victims were reported officially as having paid ransom, many others were released without ransom and hundreds made no official reports.

In a desperate effort to stem the kidnapping wave, mid-West crime fighters have united to obtain Federal legislation that would deter abductions by making transportation of a kidnapped person from one State to another a capital crime. Petitions have been presented to the Federal Government asking for enactment of such a law. Among those favoring this legislation are Colonel Robert Isham Randolph, head of Chicago's "Secret Six"; Walter B. Weisenburger, president of the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, and others.

Recalling recent kidnapping by extortionists, who strike at big money by seizing helpless victims, authorities here said yesterday it might be such a gang as that reported operating here last year which took the Lindbergh baby.

Several months ago rumors of a kidnap plot throw high professional and theatrical circles into fright. The police had received information that a highly organized group had marked a list of wealthy folk in these circles for kidnapping. Detectives disclosed that among the wealthy persons under constant guard to protect them from abduction was Frank Keeney, Brooklyn theatrical man and former Florida race track owner. Detectives said that extortion on a large scale had been attempted by a band operating from Philadelphia. No arrests were made.

WOLL BLAMES DRY ACT FOR KIDNAPPING GANGS

Prohibition Has Shown Profits in Violating Laws, He Tells Women's Reform Groups.

The kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby was traced to prohibition, by Matthew Woll, vice president of the American Federation of Labor, in the course of an attack on the dry laws yesterday at the Anti-Prohibition Institute of the New York State Division of the Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform, at the Commodore Hotel.

"The kidnapping of yesterday," he said, without referring to Charles A. Lindbergh Jr. by name, "is all a result of showing the profitableness of working outside the law; and this is an example of the way prohibition has corrupted our whole social and political structure."

Mr. Woll asserted that the dry laws do not represent a majority sentiment, that they are unenforceable, that they have cost the government billions in lost revenues, and that they are corrupting the morals of the nation. The A. F. of L., he said, was the only organization that had opposed them before their enactment.

"Temperance was making leaps and bounds until the Eighteenth Amendment; and now, today, the forces of temperance have been wiped out," he declared. "Drinking today is going on more viciously, more extensively, and more dangerously than at any other period."

He said that he could "personally testify to Congressmen drinking in my presence alcoholic beverages containing more than 2.75 per cent alcohol and voting dry."

LINDBERGH'S MOTHER TEACHES AS USUAL

'Grateful for My Work' During Search, She Says—Keeps in Close Touch With Son.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, March 2.—First word of the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby reached the flier's mother, Mrs. Evangeline L. L. Lindbergh, and her brother Charles by long-distance telephone last night.

The telephone bell rang in Mrs. Lindbergh's home at 508 Lake Pointe Avenue, Grosse Pointe Park, shortly before 11 P. M. It was Mrs. Anne Morrow Lindbergh calling.

While the search for the child was being pressed, Mrs. Lindbergh heard her seven classes at Cass Technical High School as usual. In fact, it was a repetition of what she did the day her son landed on a Paris airport five years ago, and, as then, her 300 students were round-eyed with the day's sensational news.

"I'm trying to carry on with my work," Mrs. Lindbergh said. "I shall endeavor to keep calm, and will not allow myself to even think that my little grandson will not be speedily returned to his parents. I am grateful for my work, as it makes the hours pass a little less slowly.

"My brother, at our home on Lake Pointe Avenue, is in constant touch with my son, and no time will be lost in notifying me if I am hearing my classes."

CHICAGO POLICE HELP HUNT FOR KIDNAPPERS

Questioning of Man Held Here Is Asked in Hope It May Show Link to Abduction Ring.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHICAGO, March 2.—Federal, State and city law enforcers and crime-fighting organizations here today joined police of the nation in pledging cooperation in the search for the kidnappers of Charles Augustus Lindbergh Jr.

Pat Roche, chief investigator for State's Attorney Swanson, instructed New York police to question Charles Brown, who is under arrest in that city awaiting extradition proceedings to bring him to Chicago, where he is under indictment for kidnapping. Roche said he believes Brown may have connections with New York kidnappers, who might have engineered the seizure of the Lindbergh baby.

Brown was arrested with six others for the kidnapping of Edwin Dobkin, betting commissioner, and Dr. and Mrs. Max Gecht. Niel Montague, one of the six, recently escaped from the county jail by walking out in the clothes of his brother, who had come to visit him. Roche believes Montague to be in New York affiliated with that city's kidnapping ring.

Colonel Robert Isham Randolph, head of the "Secret Six," was convinced the kidnapping was the act of an insane person. He expressed the opinion the child would be returned soon.

"There are lots of kidnapping gangs with enough facilities to carry out the job, but no organized gang would ever attempt such a crime," he said. "None of them would be brainless enough to try it. They know the whole country would be looking for them—and the man who flew the Atlantic alone wouldn't be an easy victim.

"Organized gangs are looking for easy victims—not for children whose fathers are world heroes. They prey largely on bootleggers, gamblers and other criminals whose personal affairs prevent them from calling on the law for aid."

FILM OF BABY AIDS HUNT.

Amateur Picture Was Made on the Morrow Estate.

Amateur motion pictures taken recently of Charles Augustus Lindbergh Jr. at the estate of Mrs. Dwight W. Morrow in Englewood, N. J., were turned over to Pathé News, Inc., yesterday afternoon for showing on Broadway at the evening performances in the motion picture houses and for distribution by airplane to cities throughout the East. Eventually the pictures will be distributed from coast to coast in the hope that by some chance a person seeing them might be of help in discovering the whereabouts of the kidnapped baby.

Mrs. Charles W. Hulst of Englewood, a close friend of Mrs. Morrow, turned over the film to the family and arrangements were made for its showing, a Pathé official said yesterday. The film, it was said, measured about 300 feet and showed the baby in many poses and with various facial expressions. The pictures, it was said, were clear and informative as to the appearance of the child.

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