

CURRENT OPINION: Tumult in America over Japan's bombing of the U. S. gunboat *Panay*

IT IS evident that this series of accidents to neutrals is becoming intolerable. Some high Japanese officers are responsible for such outrages. Only punishment will demonstrate good faith on the part of Japan.—*Key Pittman, chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee*

All indication is that it was just one of those regrettable things.—*Senator William E. Borah*

The President should be sustained in his effort to make Japan realize that she cannot continue a policy of aggression with ruthless disregard of treaties and international law. A firm policy now for law and order will save many lives.—*Russell J. Clinchy, president, Washington Council for International Relations**

The gunboats remaining on the Yangtze should be withdrawn to avoid further complications. We want no war.—*Senator Arthur Capper*

Handling such incidents requires calmness rather than bluster. President Roosevelt, we think, is showing admirable restraint.—*Scripps-Howard newspapers*

Withdraw all American shipping. Put into effect with other powers a complete boycott of Japan. Keep out of war ourselves under all circumstances.—*William Floyd, director, Peace Patriots**

The general public will do well not to rock the boat, and let the American State Department, which is in capable hands, handle the matter without amateur assistance. Among the amateurs who would do well to keep still are some of the United States Senators.—*Los Angeles Times*

Sinking of *Panay* and oil ships shows the uncontrollability of war declared

Gunboat

or undeclared. Japan is aflame with military fire and ascertainment of reliable facts is almost impossible. Wars always turn on fact, not law. And each side reports conflicting facts. Responsibility rests on Japan's rulers, not her navy or army. License to kill and destroy is based on a doctrine of military necessity, which is war; and war is hell.—*Salmon O. Levinson, chairman, American Committee for Outlawry of War**

The government should address a sharp note of protest to itself for having permitted the gunboat to be in that exposed position.—*The Portland Oregonian*

We oppose the use of this tragic incident, made inevitable by our own Asiatic policy, as an excuse for demonstrations.—*Fellowship of Reconciliation**

American citizens or naval vessels do not belong in no man's land in a war. Clear-cut policy, including withdrawal of ships and nationals, is long overdue. Sinking of the *Panay* should not be exploited by our government to obtain blank checks from the people to prolong a policy contrary to our determination to stay out of other peoples' wars.—*W. J. Libby, executive secretary, National Council for Prevention of War**

We had the machinery all set to handle a situation like that in the Neutrality Act, which the President failed to invoke.—*Senator Gerald P. Nye*

I would like to call the attention of this country to what happened when the *Maine* was sunk in Havana harbor. At that time the government did not consist of rubber stamps, and the people had intestinal stamina.—*Dr. Thomas Darlington, Grand Sachem, Society of Tammany**

*Telegraphed to the Literary Digest