

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Japan is profoundly sorry about the bombing and sinking of one of Uncle Sam's warships. But, says Washington, "that isn't going to be enough." Even some of the least belligerent senators are talking in angry. One of them said: "These interminable accidents to neutrals in China are becoming intollerable." And the Congressman who said that was Key Pittman of Nevada, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate.

At the White House it was stated that President Roosevelt is deeply shocked and concerned. (The President received a visit from Secretary Hull bringing with him official reports of the sinking of the PANAY, the killing of one member of her crew and the wounding of two officers.)

In their conference, the President and the Secretary of State drew up a formal note. It was directed not to the Foreign Office at Tokyo but to the Emperor Hirohito himself. This, to say

the least, is a most unusual procedure. This departure from diplomatic custom is almost as though the President were to say to the Mikado: "I am addressing you personally as it is obvious that your Foreign Office has no control over the actions of your fighting men." The note demanded full compensation and safeguard against similar accidents in the future. All this, of course, in addition to apologies.

The (apologies have already been forthcoming. The doors of our State Department had hardly opened today before Japanese Ambassador Saito arrived. He brought expressions of his government's regrets.)

On this occasion there is no stalling or attempt to dodge the blame. Vice-Admiral Hasakawa accepts full responsibility and profoundest regret for what is described as a terrible mistake by Japanese aviators.

While Saito was calling on Secretary Hull, over in Tokyo.

Foreign Minister Hirota made a personal visit to our Ambassador

Joseph Grew,

~~Joe Grew~~, apologizing profoundly. He was followed almost

immediately by the Minister of the Navy and the Minister of the

Army.

The incident prompted ^{four} some congressmen to renew their

clamor for the withdrawal of all American vessels from Chinese

waters. There's a considerable volume of opinion in Congress

favoring this kind of extreme isolationism. Other critics are

pointing out that Uncle Sam's liners are the only ships that

do not deliver their passengers at Shanghai as usual. The British,

the French and the Germans continue to make their regular calls.

The unofficial report going around Washington ^{is} ~~was~~ that

relations between Uncle Sam and Japan had never been so strained.

A good deal of deep meaning is attributed to the report that ~~Great~~

~~Britain and the United States~~

~~Uncle Sam and John Bull~~ are in close consultation on all this

Far Eastern business.

~~Later in the day the State Department revealed the~~

FOLLOW LEAD

In one quarter there is actual jubilation today over the sinking of that American ship. The Chinese are saying openly: "It's as good as a hundred victories for us." As a matter of fact, news comes tonight that Chinese radio commentators are telling their people that the sinking of the PANAY makes it certain that American and England will come to China's help.

All over the world the question is asked:- How on earth could such a mistake have happened? (The Japanese insist that their plane mistook the American gunboat for a Chinese craft. One report is the Japanese aviators misunderstood their orders, thought they had been instructed to attack everything in sight on the river. To corroborate that, comes the news that the Japanese authorities had warned all foreign ships to keep out of the war area.) So the attack took place with the idea that that warning had been heeded.

We hear also that the Japanese Admiral told our Commander-in-Chief unofficially, that the guilty flyers would be punished. Some take that to mean they will either be given an opportunity to commit suicide or face a firing squad.

LATE

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The late ^{at} reports from the Far East make this whole business all the more complicated. Early today came the hopeful report that sixty-three of the Americans aboard the PANAY had been saved. The report late tonight is totally different. Only nine are actually accounted for. The British gunboat H.M.S. BEE picked up seven of them, two others were found to be safe ashore. The earlier rumor that fifty-four survivors reached the river-bank and were safe in a mission at Hohsein, is ~~absolutely~~ unconfirmed. Actually, so far as the available facts go, those fifty-four are unaccounted for.

A cable reached the New York office of the Socony Vacuum Company that ninety-six people in the employ of that corporation were killed by Japanese bombs. Ninety-five of those were ~~Japanese~~ ^{Chinese,} the other the master of an American tanker. Other conflicting and contradictory dispatches help to complicate the picture still further. The only thing that can be said now with any assuredness that it is true, ~~is~~ is, as I just said, that only nine survivors of the PANAY are as yet accounted for.

SHIPWRECK

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The latest bulletin from the shipwrecked liner PRESIDENT HOOVER sounds almost ironic after the news from China. While Japanese aviators were destroying an American man-o-war, a Japanese cruiser ^{had} left the blockade of the China coast and steamed under forced draft to rescue the PRESIDENT HOOVER'S passengers. It carried two hundred from the liner, took them to a nearby Japanese island, and established an emergency hospital to take care of them.

All the shipwrecked passengers are safe. They're on their way to Manila aboard the PRESIDENT MCKINLEY of the ^{Dollar} ~~same~~ line. All of the crew are ^{ashore} ~~safe~~ except those who stayed aboard to help in the salvage work. ^R The tugs and U.S. destroyers that came to the rescue had a terrific job fighting waves of mountainous size. So far they have been unable to drag the PRESIDENT HOOVER off the reef on which she was wrecked. At present she's in no danger and they're still hopeful of saving that luxurious eight million dollar vessel.

FOREIGN

The exploits of Weidmann, the latest French Bluebeard continue to grow in number. The police have now pinned the sixth murder on him. In fact they say he has confessed it. He went to court today to tell the judge that the authorities were wasting their time digging in the garden for the sixth victim. Said he had buried her somewhere else. Cold-blooded. Blue Beard indeed.

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Today we hear a renewal of the agitation for the payment of John Bull's war debt to Uncle Sam. That would hardly be news but for the fact that it comes from an English voice. The LONDON EVENING STANDARD declares that Great Britain should pay us because: And here are the words of that important London paper. I quote verbatim:- "We need a revival in old-fashioned regard for the sanctity of contract."

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In the year just come to an end the world will have spent something like twelve billion dollars for armaments. So we learn from the Year Book published by the League of Nations at Geneva. And those figures are based solely on official reports. That doesn't include money spent for

roads, airdromes and other public works ~~that will be~~ necessary
in time of war.

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(Germany today was still jubilant over Mussolini's
withdrawal from the League of Nations. The Nazi newspapers, which
of course are all controlled by the government, said Germany for
one will never re-enter the fold, ~~we~~ will never again become
a member of the League.)

*The League to which
we to have never belonged.*

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Still another victory for the New Deal in the Supreme Court. This time it's the Gold Clause. Six of the nine justices declared that the President and the Secretary of the Treasury were completely within their rights when they cancelled the payment of government ^{bond} dividends in gold.

It was a six-to-three vote, with Chief Justice Hughes and Associate Justice Roberts on the so-called liberal side. The opinion was written by liberal Justice Cardozo. As he was sick at home with the grippe, it was read by the voice of the Chief Justice.

Justice McReynolds disagreed bitterly and cuttingly. On his side were Pierce Butler and George Sutherland. In fact, he took off the gloves when he declared that the opinion of the majority actually, as he put it, "sanctions a fraud. And", said he, "the action of the government is no more nor less than a violation of the Ten Commandments." As Mr. Justice McReynolds delivered this biting criticism, his voice rasped and indignation flashed in his eyes. Several of the bitter things he said were evidently quite impromptu as they were not contained in the printed version of the dissenting

opinion.

There was no mistaking the fact that this Gold Clause dispute had been the subject of the most acid disagreement on the high bench.

G.O.P.

An important and long expected meeting of the Republican big-shots started in St. Louis today. It's the Executive Committee of the National Committee. Its purpose, as suggested by Ex-President Hoover, and other leaders, is to draft a preliminary platform. That platform to be used in next year's congressional campaign and the presidential campaign of Nineteen Forty.

As the Republican potentates got together, the grapevine rumors from St. Louis indicated that so far there is a good deal of disagreement. It isn't going to be any too easy for them to agree on the hundred ~~and~~ men and women who will draft that platform. It is said that some of them are urging that the Committee should include Right Wing Democrats, Democrats who ran out on President Roosevelt in Nineteen Thirty-Six. That means of course such Democrats as Newton D. Baker, former Senator

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Jim Reed of Missouri, former Governor Al Smith, former presidential candidate John W. Davis. ^{They say} ~~and~~ that suggestion ~~is~~

^{may} ~~liable to~~ prove a tough stumbling block. At any rate, we shan't know the result of that meeting as it shall probably last two or

three days. Mr. Hoover himself is not there. He is still in N. Y. at his Waldorf apartment.

LUDWIG

President Roosevelt's biography by Emila Ludwig has one particularly interested reader in Washington. It's the

First Lady of the Land, Mrs. Roosevelt. And what does she think

of it? "Interesting but not quite true, that is in some respects,"

says she.

For instance, said Mrs. Roosevelt, Dr. Ludwig is inaccurate

when he overemphasizes the influence of her uncle Ted, the great

T.R. upon her husband F.D.R. And, said ~~Mrs. Roosevelt~~

the First Lady: -

"The implication that I thought Uncle Ted the most wonderful man in

the world, and that this influenced my husband, ~~is~~ not true."

that's

WEATHER

56
Buffalo, New York, has dug itself out but now other parts of the east are getting ready for heavy snowfalls. The storm that tied up Buffalo for almost five days was the worst in many years. In fact it tied up the entire Niagara River valley and many people were marooned, seven killed.

And, Up to now the most southerly parts of the United States have been revelling in ~~exceptionally early~~ skating weather. But the weather man tells us it won't last much longer. The prophecy is "probably snow." And that sounds promising to ski fans, even if it does dismay the skaters.

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It's mighty seldom that you hear of icy weather in the British Isles at this time of the year. So it's astonishing to learn that Scotland had been through the worst blizzard in a decade, snow ~~in~~ ten feet high, whole communities isolated. Highways and railroads are tied up all over Great Britain with ferocious gales in the Channel. In some parts of southern England the wind blew as heavily as sixty miles an hour.

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The French liner NORMANDIE, trying to take off passengers at Southampton, lost one of her anchors. For a while it looked

as though she would be blown ashore. It took one tender two hours to get a gangway attached to the monster ship.

SUICIDE

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Out in Los Angeles a story came to light a few weeks ago that might have been invented by Charles Dickens. There were two close friends, John Peterson and Floyd Withrow. They were in the ~~the~~ drug business and Withrow in particular had ~~been~~ done well for himself. He owned a highly prosperous concern, manufacturing drugs. Peterson, who was ten years younger than his friend forgot that part of the **T**en Commandments which talks about coveting your neighbor's property. He coveted that drug manufacturing business, and ~~he~~ thought that the only way to get it was to bring about the death of his best friend. Not having the nerve to do it himself he hired somebody else, ~~as a murderer~~. But the plot went wrong. Peterson was arrested, confessed ~~his utter shame and~~ *and did away* ~~committed suicide.~~ *with himself.*

Today the bitterest part of that whole story came to light. The ~~the~~ prosperous Withrow had ~~made~~ *actually* made all preparations for giving his friend Peterson that business as a Christmas present. "I was going to tell him about it Christmas Day, the same time I gave our kids the bicycles, I bought for them," ~~As a matter of fact,~~ *"said he. And* "As a matter of fact," he added, "I've been planning to hand it to him for a long time."

CRUCIFIED

8 1/2
A tenant in an apartment house at New Haven, Connecticut, heard groans from the cellar yesterday. He ran down and found the caretaker with his out-stretched hands nailed to the door of the cellar. His mouth was gagged with a handkerchief and cross-shaped cuts covered his face and forehead -- crucified.

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When the authorities came to investigate the caretaker first of all said that he had been attacked by two men who nailed him to that door and marked his face up. The police continued questioning him for seven hours, at the end of which time he said he had done it himself. Sounds difficult, but ^{he} was ingenious enough to do it. He said he had had a fight with his wife who told him she was going home to mother. And he had cricified himself on that cellar door to gain her sympathy. It takes a lot -- even crucifixion -- to gain the sympathy of some wives! 4 e-l-u-t-m.

9 1/4