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U.S. Naval War College (Editor)

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tions based on the claim that the United States is dis-united as they have so often prophesied.

“Our own position in the struggle against aggression would be definitely weakened, not only in Europe and in Asia, but also among our sister republics in the Americas. Foreign nations, friends and enemies, would misinterpret our own mind and purpose.

“I have discussed this letter with the Secretary of State and he wholeheartedly concurs.

“May I take this opportunity of mentioning that in my judgment failure of the House to take favorable action on the Senate amendments would also weaken our domestic situation? Such failure would weaken our great effort to produce all we possibly can and as rapidly as we can. Strikes and stoppages of work would become less serious in the mind of the public.

“I am holding a conference tomorrow in the hope that certain essential coal mines can remain in continuous operation. This may prove successful.

“But if it is not successful it is obvious that this coal must be mined in order to keep the essential steel mills at work. The Government of the United States has the backing of the overwhelming majority of the people of the United States, including the workers.

“Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT”

XIII. NEUTRALITY LAW REPEAL

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO REPEAL SECTIONS 2, 3, AND 6 OF THE NEUTRALITY ACT OF 1939, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

(Public Law 294—77th Cong., Chap. 473, 1st Sess., H. J. Res. 237)

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Section 2 of the Neutrality Act of 1939 (relating to commerce with States engaged in armed conflict), and Section

3 of such Act (relating to combat areas), are hereby repealed.

SECTION 2. Section 6 of the Neutrality Act of 1939 (relating to the arming of American vessels) is hereby repealed; and, during the unlimited national emergency proclaimed by the President on May 27, 1941, the President is authorized, through such agency as he may designate, to arm, or to permit or cause to be armed, any American vessel as defined in such Act. The provisions of Section 16 of the Criminal Code (relating to bonds from armed vessels on clearing) shall not apply to any such vessel.

Approved, November 17, 1941, 4: 30 p. m., E. S. T.

XIV. SEIZURE OF THE "ODENWALD"

(New York Times, Nov. 19, 1941)

The cruiser *Omaha* today was revealed as the warship that seized the German freighter *Odenwald*, disguised as the steamer *Willmoto*, of Philadelphia, in Atlantic equatorial waters.

The disclosure came in a libel for salvage, filed in the United States District Court by United States Attorney Cecil Snyder. The action was brought for the United States and on behalf of the *Omaha's* officers and crew. The *Omaha* brought the *Odenwald* to a San Juan anchorage yesterday.

Libels were brought against the ship, cargo, and freight with a request that the court decree a full salvage award for the services of the *Omaha*, including saving the lives of the *Odenwald's* crew, and a request that the ship and cargo be sold to pay the salvage award.

The brief document filed relates that on Nov. 6 the *Omaha* came upon the vessel, flying the