

November 1, 1941

Rubin

Good Morning, Friends:

The sinking of the Rubin James is a fact of stark concurrence with the President's statement to the Nation that the shooting had started. While American ships are being sunk on the seas and army air pilots suffer and die in training against winter freeze, the United States Senate continues to debate repeal of the Neutrality Act. The sinking of the Rubin James demonstrates how dead is the policy underlying the Neutrality Act.

One of the commonest errors of statesmanship, however, is to cling to the ~~careus~~ *carcass* of a dead policy. The Rubin James was engaged in helping to clear the Atlantic of the pirates who are seeking to add to Hitler's empire control of the seas. And it must be remembered that it is of vital importance to the United States that the war making dictators do not gain control of the sea, lest we be isolated in a friendless world.

Our great President and our none-the-less great Secretary of State have clearly foreseen this developing threat to the freedom of mankind. The President has given orders to the navy to shoot on sight any enemy craft within our defensive waters. The Rubin James, no doubt, was endeavoring to carry out the order. The Navy should put as many naval units in this area as possible and carry out the President's order to shoot the gizzard out of ~~any~~ enemy craft on sight. This is necessary to make our defense positive. Neutrality in such circumstances is a carcass, and the sinking of the Rubin James should spur the Senate to bury the lifeless body of the ill-fated Neutrality Act with a resounding majority.

The Senate Isolationists still charge that every step is a step toward war. Hitler has been at war with the United States since long ago. He knows that while the United States stands as a free society his mad dream of a Nazi world is impossible of realization. He counts upon bringing down one country after another till he has faced us with an overwhelming force. This brooding challenge we have accepted on the specific issue that the freedom at least of the Atlantic is the cardinal doctrine of our foreign policy.

Rest of speech from
Brice Control Hearing
or statement (printed)