

(MVI)  
CG-MIN-300  
S.S. BOWLINE REEFER

Honorable John F. Sonnett  
Assistant Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C.

Re: S.S. BOWLINE REEFER, discharge of oil, Market Street Wharf, New Orleans, Louisiana, 16 June, 1945; violation of Section 433 of Title 33 USCA. Your file JFS:LCD 62-32-32

Dear Sir:

The Coast Guard has received your letter of 16 October, 1946, inclosing a copy of a letter received from the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana concerning the above-entitled matter. You ask the Coast Guard to give consideration to the statements of the United States Attorney and furnish you with its recommendations; also that the file in the case be forwarded to your office in order that you may intelligently answer the letter from the United States Attorney.

The United States Attorney advises that the case involves an accidental discharge of good usable oil into the Mississippi River while the S.S. BOWLINE REEFER was being fueled; further, that no criminal information has been filed, and the United States Attorney has been authorized to close the test case of United States vs. Honduran Steamship TANAMO, No. 572 in Admiralty, which involved the question of whether or not the term "coastal navigable waters of the United States", defined in Title 33 USCA Section 433 as "inland waters navigable in fact in which the tide ebbs and flows", is applicable to the Mississippi River at New Orleans. In view of the action in the above case, the United States Attorney requests authority to close his file in subject matter.

In view of the statements of the United States Attorney, the Coast Guard will interpose no objection to disposing of this case in the manner requested. However, inasmuch as report of the violation was forwarded to the District Engineer, War Department, New Orleans, the views of the Secretary of War in the matter might be solicited prior to final disposition of the case.

As requested in your letter, the Coast Guard is inclosing its file of the S.S. BOWLINE REEFER. Please return the same when it has served its purpose.

Very truly yours

CC: LT. COMDR. HAMMOND, Station 8-17

21 October, 1946

Incl  
File of BOWLINE REEFER