CG-628

29 February 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CREW DISCIPLINARY CONNITTEE, WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION

The Coast Guard has received information from a reliable source concerning B.C. Hauschild, Master of the SS JOHN C. SPENCER.

Report states that Captain Hauschild was arrested in Valperiso on 5 December 1943 for alleged drunkenness. On his release the next day he refused to join his vessel, which was scheduled to sail shortly, because he alleged his arrest had been framed and he desired to remain ashore to investigate the matter. He was, however, persuaded to go aboard one half hour before sailing time and the ship was thereupon taken out of the inner harbor by the Pilot. After clearing the inner harbor the Pilot anchored in the outer harbor and refused to permit the Captain of the Port's representative to give the ship clearance, based on the fact, report states, that Captain Hauschild was under the influence of liquor and in no condition to take command of the ship. The ship was finally cleared on 6 December, after a delay of 18 hours.

Report suggests that Captain Hauschild may be a mental case, suffering from a persecution complex and a belief that he is a very ill man.

The Coast Guard will instigate whatever disciplinary action may be warranted in this case.

C. H. BROACH Lt. Commander, USCGR Assistant Chief Merchant Marine Personnel Division

