

LAW OFFICES OF  
ATWATER & CRUIKSHANK,  
43 CEDAR STREET,  
NEW YORK.

New York, March 9, 1916.

Hon. George Sutherland,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I know you are very busy and I do not want you to take the trouble to answer this letter, but if you are sending out copies of your speech delivered to the Senate on March 7th upon Submarine Warfare, etc., I wish you would put me upon your mailing list for that speech. It has been noticed in several of the newspapers here and in the most complimentary terms and lest you should fail to see it I enclose a clipping from the New York Sun of today.

I heard you many years ago at a meeting of the American Bar Association and at that time formed a high opinion of your ability and good judgment which has been confirmed and strengthened by your attitude in this present emergency. The failure of the Republican Congressmen to grasp the situation and to seize upon the opportunity to make their party the champion, as it formerly was, of American and human rights is saddening to many people in the East.

The right of belligerents to kill non combatants at sea by drowning or otherwise has never been claimed or permitted in modern times until now. To abandon the duty of protecting American citizens at sea and to surrender the right of Americans to travel on passenger ships in the face of such a claim as is now made by the German government and its friends is base. The Republican party should be the last to surrender American and human rights to any power, despotic or otherwise. At present the United States is the only nation so situated as to be able to effectively champion and defend those rights and yet a large party in Congress is so unspeakably cowardly as to favor their deliberate abandonment. The logic and excuse of the quitters is as weak as their conduct. They say we have the right to travel upon passenger ships of any nation but it is a right which it is our duty to abandon because its exercise is opposed. That logic would justify the abandonment, one by one, of every neutral right. And what is meant by a right which cannot be exercised? It is seriously proposed to completely abandon the existing custom of Americans to travel as they see fit. Every lawyer knows that in that case the custom and the assertion of the right being abandoned the right itself disappears. Some of our people are filled with shame and fury at what is going on in Washington. I congratulate you on doing what you can to set the feet of the nation on the right path. Such speeches as yours and of Messrs Root and Lodge are doing a great deal of good.

Yours Sincerely,  
Alfred B. Cruikshank