



Submarine Refused Permission To Dock At Any City Owned Pier By Commissioner Of Docks McKenzie

It is almost unbelievable that a city governed by a mayor who is one of the outstanding liberals of the United States, a man noted for his square dealing and belief in impartiality in the affairs of government, should have a subordinate who acts in a dictatorial manner and draws a distinction as to what ships will be allowed to dock in the City of New York at piers which are under his control.

The Submarine S-49 has been exhibited at municipal piers in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Newark, Chicago, Cleveland, Buffalo and many others. Every municipal dock department that I have come in contact with was not only willing, but anxious, to assist me in securing the best available docking facilities for the convenience of the people of their city who wished to visit this submarine. To find a dock commissioner who absolutely refused me docking space at city owned piers such as the Battery Park and the adjoiring Pier I A, not only in the summer but in November as well, when there were no boats using any of these locations and at a time when it would have meant a substantial revenue to the city, seems unbelieveable.

The reason given me by the Commissioner's secretary was that they had refused permissing for other boats to tie up at city owned docks for the purpose of operating as night clubs, restaurants and dence halls. This comparison is, of course, ridiculous, as this type of business could be established just as well in any of the hundreds of idle buildings throughout the city. In the case of this submarine, it is entirely different as this is the exhibition of a ship which cannot be shown except at a dock, as this is the only submarine used for exhibition purposes in the entire world. There is no other opportunity for the people to see one. Especially at this time, it is of an intense interest to the general public because of the billions of dollars, which they are willingly paying in taxes to build up the greatest navy in the world, they are more deeply interested in seeing the way these ships are constructed. Dock Commissioner McKenzie has deprived the people of New York City of the opportunity of seeing this submarine as far as he has been able, and it is my opinion that he has acted contrary to the personal interest of the people and the financial interest of the city. If these docks were Mr. McKenzie's personal property, he would have the right to refuse to accept rental for them. But as an agent for the city, itseems strange that he should refuse the income of several hundred dollars a month for docks that were idle.

It is only because of the fact that the State of New York is allowing me the use of Pier 5 the East River that the people of New York are now able to see this submarine. While not as convient for the visitors as Battery Park, by following the diagram on the other side of this paper, it may be reached in about two (2) minutes.

CAPT. F. J. CHRESTENSEN,

Exhibitor of the former U. S. Navy Submarine S-49