

# SCHACHT, DOENITZ PRESENT DEFENSES

## Financier Demands Acquittal on Ground of Treason to Regime He Served

NUREMBERG, Germany, July 15 (AP)—The International Military Tribunal was asked today to judge the case of Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz so that history will not judge all German seamen as pirates and murderers. A few hours earlier, counsel for Hjalmar Schacht, pleaded for his acquittal on the ground that he had been an out-and-out "traitor" to Adolf Hitler.

Otto Kranzbuehler, presenting the defense summary for Doenitz, said that "not only is the Admiral's fate connected with this decision—it is also a question of the honorable names of hundreds of thousands of German seamen." Herr Kranzbuehler, himself a navy man, said that the principal charge against Doenitz was unrestricted U-boat warfare early in the war. This he blamed on the British.

"Soon after the war started, orders of the British Admiralty fell into German hands," he said. "A decision of the tribunal has made it possible for me to submit them." He said that the British merchant vessels had been ordered to report submarines by radio and to use naval artillery and depth charges against them.

Herr Kranzbuehler declared that the late President Roosevelt had justified an order to American naval forces to attack submarines with the statement: "When you see a rattlesnake rear its head you do not wait until it jumps at you, but you destroy it before it gets a chance." He referred to a speech by Mr. Roosevelt in 1941 that the Navy intended to protect American shipping then engaged in ferrying lend-lease materials to Britain.

Counsel for Schacht presented the German financial wizard as a man who "trode the path of conspiracy" against Hitler and now found himself in the same prisoners' box with the Gestapo chief who arrested him for such overthrow attempts. Rudolf Dix said that Schacht had gone through three stages of Hitler's regime, in each as a patriot: active participation in the Government as Finance Minister for the good of Germany until 1938, when he resigned; Minister Without Portfolio from 1938 to 1943, constantly conspiring to overthrow the Government and keeping his position in order to bore from within; outright plotting against Hitler's life from 1943 on, including a definite role in the July 20, 1944, bomb plot that resulted in Schacht's incarceration in a concentration camp.

Herr Dix derided the allegation that Schacht had quit because of rivalry with Hermann Goering. He said that Schacht saw Goering only as chief of the war plan and that was the reason for the enmity.

**The New York Times**

Copyright © The New York Times

Originally published July 16, 1946