CAPTAIN HERBERT WINSLOW of the naval transport Solace has an excited idea of the rights and duties of naval vessels as against customs officers, and in accordance with his position as a member of the council of war, he refused to allow the customs inspectors and the federal quarantine officer to search the vessel. The vessel arrived from Manila on Sunday and steamed at once to Mare Island, with the purpose of inspecting the vessel. The customs inspector was ordered to board the vessel, and the captain, in accordance with the instructions given him, refused to permit the search to be made.

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WINSLOW SAYS CUSTOMS MEN SHALL NOT SEARCH SOLACE
Captain of Transport Refuses to Allow Them Aboard and Treasury Department Is Notified.

Captain Herbert Winslow, commanding officer of the transport Solace, has an excited idea of the rights and duties of naval vessels as against customs officers, and in accordance with his position as a member of the council of war, he refused to allow the customs inspectors and the federal quarantine officer to search the vessel. The vessel arrived from Manila on Sunday and steamed at once to Mare Island, with the purpose of inspecting the vessel.

At noon today, when inspectors Undershaft and Lachlan came aboard, the captain, in accordance with the instructions given him, refused to permit the search to be made.

The commander, before leaving Manila, made it a point to inform the inspectors that any search would not be permitted, and that the inspectors must be satisfied with the inspection of the vessel.

Under the law, the commander of a merchant vessel is considered an officer of the customs service, and therefore, bound to prevent smuggling. Consequently, hisship was not allowed to be entered for inspection.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24—Regarding the report that Captain Winslow of the transport Solace refused to allow customs inspectors on board to search for smuggled goods, it is stated that the Treasury Department could make no statement in the matter, as it had no official knowledge of it and knew nothing of the circumstances and general way by which customs inspectors had a right to board vessels to search for smuggled goods, if any misunderstanding existed in the present instance, it is expected that the collector of customs at San Francisco, without bringing it to the attention of the department.