

25

17 July, 1782. An Ordinance more effectually to prevent Illicit
Trade with the enemy. —

Whereas a pernicious Commerce is carried
on by some of the Inhabitants of these United States
with the enemy by means of collusive captures on
the water; — for remedy thereof

Be it ordained by the United States in
Congress assembled and it is hereby ordained by the
authority of the same that whenever such collusion
shall appear in evidence on the trial of any Capture
the Vessel and her cargo shall be adjudged and con-
-demned as lawful prize to the use of the State in
which such trial shall be had except in such case
wherein any person or persons shall before sentence or
Judgement given interpose his or their answer and
claim charging the Capture to have been collusively
made and shall support such answer and claim
by sufficient proof; in which case the property
captured shall be sentenced and adjudged as lawful
prize one moiety thereof to the use and behoof of such
claimant or claimants and the other moiety thereof
to the use and behoof of the State into which the prize
shall be carried for condemnation: Provided

(always —

always that in every cause of prize wherein no such answer and claim shall be interposed or being interposed shall not be supported by sufficient proof if the Court shall in their opinion have cause to suspect the Capture to have been collusive, it shall demand of the Captors sufficient proof that the same was bona fide and not collusively made and on failure of such proof to the satisfaction of the Court such captures shall be deemed collusive & the property so captured shall be adjudged and condemned as lawful prize to the use and behoof of such State as aforesaid. —

DONE by the United States in Congress assembled the seventeenth day of Jul, in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty two and in the seventh Year of our Independence. —

John Hanson Pres^d

Attest.

Cha Thomson Secy