Joseph Pulitzer was asked last night if he had any reply to make on behalf of himself or The World to the President’s attack on him and The World in his message to Congress yesterday. In reply Mr. Pulitzer dictated this statement:

“So far as I am personally concerned, I was at sea during the whole of October, and, in fact, practically for two years I have been yachting on account of my health. I was in Europe during the entire Presidential campaign. I never read a word or syllable of this Panama story, was not in connection with the paper, and had nothing to do with it. Mr. Roosevelt knows all this perfectly. He knows I am a chronic invalid and mostly abroad yachting on account of my health. I think his anger is simply due to the sharp attacks made by The World on him politically. For that perhaps I am responsible; that is, for the general political criticism of Mr. Roosevelt on public and political grounds solely.

“The World is really the only Democratic paper in this city, and it objects strongly to Mr. Roosevelt’s policy of imperialism, militarism, and jingoism, his general lawless autocratic temper, his contempt of Congress and abuse of courts.

“I am astonished that Mr. Roosevelt is so very mad. I am really sorry he should be so very angry, but The World will continue to criticise him without a shadow of fear even if he should succeed in compelling me to edit the paper from jail. I think it simply his effort to shut up the paper’s criticism, just as he has tried to shut up Congress and the Senate and bulldoze the courts. But he cannot muzzle The World.”