

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.  
1024 Illinois Bldg.  
Feb. 19, 1935

The Hon. Charles E. Hughes  
Chief Justice, United States Supreme Court  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

All my life I have tried to be a good, law-abiding citizen, with genuine respect for the Supreme Court, but all such respect for your body has now disappeared completely. In your decision regarding the "Gold Clause" question, it is my opinion that you and the four other Justices of the Majority have simply condoned "welching" in the utmost degree. Apparently, you have no respect whatever for the rights of contractual relations. Neither I nor any member of my family own any of the bonds in question, but I cannot resist letting you know how utterly unfair and "small" your action appears to me, even though I realize you probably care little or nothing about how the average citizen feels in regard to the complete abrogation of contract terms.

The policyholders who have purchased specified income policies through me now have no assurance whatever that they will receive the sums set out in their contracts. They must now realize that Congress may do what it pleases to contracts, and that they will get no protection from the Supreme Court. In my humble judgment, the sooner you and the other four assenting members of the Court resign, the better off we will all be.

If this be treason, then make the most of it. I recognize that you have a right to your opinions, and, by the same token, I am entitled to my opinion on the case at issue. While one feeble word of protest will make no difference to you, it may be significant that the increasing disrespect the young people of the United States are acquiring for both Congress and your Court's seeming approval of measures apparently based on political expediency, will, in time, spell no good for any type of contract. If the Government can flout its contracts, then you may be sure that private individuals will not be long in following suit.

This is strictly a personal letter, and the use of my company's letterhead is in no way to be construed as its having any knowledge of this letter.

Very truly yours,

Hilbert Rust  
Life Insurance Sales Work  
Indianapolis, Indiana