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Honorable Charles Evans Hughes,
United States Supreme Court,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chief Justice:

Now that the second Great Decision has been made, may I, as a citizen and very humble member of the bar, be permitted to congratulate you that you had the opportunity, the intellect and the heart to write into the history of the United States two of its most illustrious pages.

When President Lincoln struck the shackles of chattel slavery from the hands of three millions of human beings, he took a great step forward in the onward march of civilization. By your momentous decisions in the Moratorium Case last year and in the Gold Clause Cases this week, you have broken the shackles of money manipulation from a hundred millions of American citizens that may now be free.

The first decision gave to human welfare, for the first time in our jurisprudence, a prior standing over property rights. The second relegated money that had, under the old system, become the master, to its useful but subordinate place as a vehicle for the exchange of human products for human needs.

“Civilization must go forward” said the President in his inaugural. The people are to be congratulated that they had you to set these two paces of a long advance.

I am sorry the two honorable associates of my early professional career, Mr. Justice Vandevanter and Mr. Justice Sutherland could not see their way clear to take step with you. Was it not Thoreau who said –“If I do not keep step with you, it is because I hear a different drummer”? They doubtless still hear the drummer of their early environment so succinctly described by the venerable historian George Bancroft, on page 352, Vol. VI of his monumental work. Our human limitations continue to actuate us because we are human.

Again congratulating you and our beloved country, I beg to remain, with great respect,

Yours sincerely,

John Curtis Hamm.