

LAW OFFICES
HAGOOD, RIVERS & YOUNG
CHARLESTON, S. C.
M. RUTLEDGE RIVERS
ARTHUR R. YOUNG
J. L. B. RIVERS
A. BARON HOLMES JR.

May 18, 1937.

Honorable Willis VanDevanter,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Dr. VanDevanter:-

In May 1935 when the celebration of the sesqui-centennial of my Alma Mater, the College of Charleston, was held I had the honor and distinction of conferring upon you in her behalf the degree of Doctor of Laws. I still value very highly the opportunity of association with you then afforded as well as upon the day before and the day succeeding the commencement exercises. This May I have as great regret as was my pleasure two years ago to see from the public prints that you are now retiring from the Supreme Court. It is neither fulsome praise nor mere formality to state that the loss to this country is irreparable; especially to the preservation of the fundamental conceptions upon which our Government was founded. You have always represented outstandingly, ably and uncompromisingly the principle that "There can be no liberty unless the power of judging is separated from legislative and executive powers." Jealous as you rightly have been of the prerogatives of the judiciary, never have you sought to impair the lawful authority of the executive or legislature. It fills my mind with forebodings and my heart with sadness that we must be deprived of your voice and vote in the judgments of the world's most important tribunal.

With my highest esteem and hope that you will enjoy the rest that you have so justly earned, and kindest regards, I beg to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

M. Rutledge Rivers
M. Rutledge Rivers.

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