

HENRY W. ANDERSON
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

April 10, 1923.

Personal

My dear Justice Sutherland –

I want to write to congratulate you upon your decision in the Minimum Wage Case, which I notice reported in the press this morning. I am delighted to see that the Court has the “guts” (not quantity but quality) to stand up in defense of personal liberty against the constant encroachments of government. If the Court had done the same thing in its decision on the Adamson Law, many of the troubles which we have had since and will have in the future, would have been avoided. I had a long talk with the late Chief Justice White just following his decision in that case, and he convinced me in defending the opinion for the majority, that he was not sure of its correctness. I think the circumstances and conditions surrounding the country at the time largely influenced that judgment. I am glad the Court has refused to permit it to go further, and congratulate you upon having written an opinion which I think will be of real service to the country. If we could now get the political prisoners, victims of the passions of war, out of jail, we would be getting back toward sound principles.

I miss seeing you when I go to Washington. I recently took a trip West in the stockyards matter, and had some more hearings, and I missed you all the time. I sometimes doubt if a man so sociable as yourself can enjoy the inevitable isolation of the Supreme Court. Being buried

behind the slab of mahogany bears some relation to being buried under it! Please forgive this rather facetious suggestion to a Justice of the Supreme Court. My affection for the man overcomes my reverence for the Judge -- when I am out of court.

Always sincerely yours,

Honourable George Sutherland,
United States Supreme Court,
Washington, D. C.

P.S. Incidentally it is rather interesting to observe our old friend Gompers, who defends the Herrin Murders and the Dynamiting Cases on the ground of personal liberty, complaining of your decision in defense of the essential personal liberty of contract.