

2165 Giddings St.,
Chicago, Ill.
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Charles Evans Hughes, Esq.,

Washington, D.C.

Honorable Sir:-

After listening to brilliant oratory and the opinions of keen intellects it has occurred to me it might be refreshing to receive the views on an all absorbing topic, of one who professes no legal training but who does profess unselfishness, patriotism and an ability to judge fairly.

I have reference to the Gold Clause Cases.

Of paramount importance is the power vested in Government. We accept such authority during War to conscript our very lives compared to which Gold is but trash. We should as patriotically accept such authority during peace when other conditions demand as drastic action.

As I understand it the law protects an individual from entering into contracts from the very nature of which he is committing himself to the impossible. It appears to me that bond issues stipulating payment in gold were entirely irregular in as much as it must have been evident, under mature deliberation, that the amounts involved were of such stupendous volume as to have been impossible of redemption in Gold.

There are many who possess bonds which although designated as payable in Gold are nevertheless worthless and such holders would have been very grateful indeed had it been possible to redeem such bonds in any kind of currency.

To my mind any attempt to enforce the Gold Clause in bonds is pure unadulterated selfishness, and as relates to Government Issues decidedly unpatriotic, as it must be evident to any normal person that action taken by Congress rescinding payment in gold was for the cardinal purpose of maintaining their value in coin of the realm, which is the only legal clause anyway, otherwise the bonds could have gone to default.

Elaborate, wordy beliefs could easily obscure what I consider plain horse sense and I trust I stand pardoned for presuming that I have as much.

Respectfully,

Geo. F. Swenson.