

Box 138, R. R. 2, Monroe, New York,  
February 9, 1937.

Dear Mr. Justice Hughes:

While I realize, sir, that you probably cannot with propriety even acknowledge your receipt of this letter, yet I want to assure you and your distinguished colleagues on the Supreme Bench that I am merely one of the thousands of American voters who deeply deplore and bitterly resent the form and manner of the President's proposal to enlarge the Supreme Court.

If the Court has gradually grown so powerful that it now overshadows both the President and Congress, yet its strength has been a guardian fortress during these last few years to those of us who would hate to think we are reactionary but who know that much of the adolescent, unsubstantial emotionalism of the New Deal is utterly beyond our understanding or belief.

If the President feels that a majority of the voters want him to extend his personal control from Congress to the Supreme Court, he should tell his obedient Congress to ask us, the people, to vote for a Constitutional Amendment, limiting the powers of the Court in certain specific ways. Perhaps we should so vote. I do not know.

But I am sure that the malicious, insulting, startlingly underbred words and manner in which the President has asked Congress to let him pack the Supreme Court and refashion it into his personal tool, will sooner, rather than later, work against him. May he be speedily hoist by his own petard!

I am writing, in a very different vein, to both of our New York senators and I mean to write to those other senators whose votes seem to be classed as doubtful; asking them all to vote against the President's proposal. The Roosevelt Administrations certainly have made us heretofore politically non-participating citizens exhilaratingly vote-conscious.

With very great respect and hot indignation,  
I am, sir,

(Mrs. Joseph T. Kescel.)