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February 12, '37

To Mr. Charles Evans Hughes Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Chief Justice:--

Thousands upon thousands of the American people today are looking upon the Supreme Court as the last constitutional bulwark of this government. We believe in the men who constitute that Court. We believe their decisions are their convictions. We detest the insinuations that they are rendered with the intention of political interference. We are fully aware of the rasping indignity which is being offered the Justices of the Court, we know the source, however, and we know the purpose. We therefore beg the honorable gentlemen not to resign -- wait until something can be done.

Up to the present, the President has met every inquiry concerning his intentions regarding the Supreme Court and the Constitution, with subterfuge, ambiguity, denial, or silence. Premature defense of either by the people, would have weakened the offense, while the administration would have cried: "Wolf! Wolf!" Really, the people are not so much surprised at the President's perfidy as they are stunned at its magnitude. The supine attitude of the House is beneath contempt. But, if the Senate does not stand...! What then, may I ask?

On January 20th., we heard you administer the oath to the President. We heard his ringing reply -- was there defiance in it? Many thought so, then. Sixteen days later he made his attack upon the Supreme Court. Mr. Chief Justice, treason ought to consist of a betrayal of a trust; of the taking of an oath with the tongue in the cheek, of the usurpation of power. Evidently, until that is treason America is never safe with men like this in the White House.

Let it, in a measure, comfort the Nine Honorable Men of the Supreme Court, that they come first to-day in the hearts of their countrymen. May you have the strength to meet this treachery, the fortitude to grow stronger under fire, and may "the God of our fathers be with you."

Respectfully yours,

(Mrs.) Rose V. S. Berry