

34 Smith Street, Bangor, Maine  
March 2, 1937

Chief Justice Hughes  
Supreme Judicial Court of the  
United States of America  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Chief Justice Hughes:

This is the first time in my life I have ever addressed a communication to any official in public life; but the stress of the times would seem to indicate that some action on the part of those who "wait and listen" should be taken. For this reason I address this brief letter to you.

To you and to the other justices presiding over the laws of this our beloved country I urge this: do not, without due thought, retire from the bench because of the passage of the law allowing you to retire after the age of seventy. Please "ride out the storm". Do your duty and know that there are those who will admire you for it. If you "stick", no unfair advantage will be taken of the law just passed, and it will make it easier for congress to resist pressure in behalf of the full reform program.

The price of liberty is vigilance. To no individual or faction should be given power which will lead to dictatorship, regardless of the ability or non-ability of the individual or faction. The path to dictatorship should never be opened in this country. A subservient judiciary is a sure path to dictatorship. We have a Constitutional way to secure reforms.

Oft times those in centers remote from the affairs of state are better able to become philosophers just as a scene of battle is seen in its entirety from the mountain top rather than on the plain. One's mind is unobstructed and is open to both the advantages and disadvantages to be derived by a certain course of action.

The writer is so insignificant in both public and private life as to desire no publicity whatsoever. It is too much to presume the writing of a letter to you. But you must know that we in Maine are watching the fight and desire you to do what is right.

Respectfully yours,

(Mrs.) Marion B. Amundsen