

R. D. Bowen,
Kiomatia, Texas,
Our Plantation P.O.,
November 15, 1930.

Hon. Charles Evans Hughes,
Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hughes:

I am quite sure that I voice the sentiment of many millions of real American citizens, who believe in the sanctity of our National Constitution guaranteeing the sacredness of personal liberty, when I state that your recent utterances in a decision, and again in your address before the American Bar Association, UPHOLDING STATE RIGHTS, is one of the most encouraging incidents that has taken place since the war between the states commenced in 1861. Your emphasis on the necessity of state rights and urging in so many words the members of the American Bar Association to insist on state rights and to safeguard that principle is doubly encouraging.

The Democratic Party, up to 1860, and even for several years after that date, stood solidly upon the firm rock of state rights and individual liberty.

The Republican Party, encouraged by some wild suggestions during the Lincoln administration of ignoring state rights, apparently took the other side, and there is no doubt but what the fact that the Democratic Party stood firm upon that rock caused that party to survive the disasters of several national defeats.

Your native state of New York was practically always in line for state rights, and when the great state of Illinois was organized it was strictly upon the principal of state rights, and the seal of that state used today contains the following words in plain English:

“STATE SOVEREIGNTY --- NATIONAL UNION”

While many so-called and would-be leaders of the Democratic Party of later years, in their hunger for office, drifted away from the solid rock of state rights, it was not very pronounced until the administration of Woodrow Wilson, and in two years of the Wilson administration the so-called Democratic party did more to trample under foot and destroy state rights than the Republican Party had dared to venture during the forty odd years they controlled the national government.

The result of this was the Republican Party quickly grabbed up state rights and individual liberty, with the result that more than four million democrats supported Harding and Coolidge in 1920, and still more than four million democrats supported Coolidge and Dawes upon the doctrine of state rights, individual liberty and real Americanism.

During the campaign of 1920 the Republican Party sent out hundreds of thousands of booklets in which appeared the following:

“The sovereignty and integrity of our states and republican form of government must be observed. Otherwise our republic cannot possibly endure.”

Is above not just about in keeping with your recent utterances?

It resulted in getting many thousands of votes that year for the national republican ticket.

The republican party began its career of theft by depriving unjustly and unlawfully their fellow citizens of the South of the value of their slaves.

Again the republican party, following its doctrine of pillage and theft, stole the presidency from Samuel J. Tilden (and it is indeed appalling that two members of the United States Supreme Court aided in the Tilden theft), and now the Republican Party seems to have adopted permanently the doctrine of state rights and individual liberty, and your recent utterances have just about confirmed the title of the Republican Party to that solid rock of real Americanism.

At one time the Democratic Party had intellectual giants as leaders, who would never surrender principle (the late Joseph Bailey was one of those giants) either for party advantage or to secure office. We hope in the young element we still have some of that class in public office, and I know quite a number of that class among the citizens.

The fact of your coming to the front as courageously and manfully as you have done is of much greater value to our nation's welfare than perhaps you realize.

Let us hope that some of the so-called and would-be leaders of the Republican Party will give evidence of their intellect by strongly supporting your expressed views on this vital point.

If you have a copy of your address delivered before the American Bar Association, I will greatly appreciate your sending me one.

I first met you on the occasion of your address in Chicago at the Colliseum, during the national campaign when William J. Bryan, I believe, made his last race. You impressed your vast audience that night with the fine consideration you paid to William J. Bryan and the manner in which you flayed his theoretical policies, which resulted in his leading the so-called Democratic Party to national defeat three times.

Yours very truly,

R. D. BOWEN