

Supreme Court of the United States.

Washington, D.C.

October 10, 1922.

My dear Mr. Lorimer:

I count myself very fortunate that my letter reached you as it did, and I thank you sincerely for doing what you have done. The public discussion of my relations with Roosevelt has always been a painful one for me. I have felt deeply that Mr. Roosevelt's friends, whether with his consent or not, have been exceedingly unjust to me in their representations and inferences, and these letters I think repel practically all that they have said; but I think it better not to revive the discussion, and to leave to my children the discretion to publish what I may say to them, together with this correspondence, when the subject becomes ripe for the political history of the time. I now cherish no ill will at all toward Theodore Roosevelt. There were times when I could perhaps not have said so, especially when his action seemed to require me to leave the White House to go out onto the stump to rebut his charges. But all that has gone into the past, and in his silence and inability to answer, I do not wish to appear to be reviving the discussion, and that is what would have been the result had the letters been published, because the public would have assumed, what you assumed, that the letters were given to Mr. Kohlsaas, with permission to publish them. If Mr. Kohlsaas thinks this, he is quite in error. I had forgotten that I had given him the letters, but the circumstance revives my recollection of what occurred. Mr. Kohlsaas said he was - and I have no doubt he was - a very warm friend of both Mr. Roosevelt and me, and was anxious to prevent the breach that he saw coming. He came to me with the statement that Mr. Roosevelt felt, and his friends said, that I had not acted in good faith with respect to my Cabinet appointments, and that he (Mr. Kohlsaas)

had written, or was going to write, a letter to Mr. Roosevelt, urging him not to have a break, and insisting that I had done nothing to justify it. Smarting, as I was, under the injustice of the charges, I let Mr. Kohlsaat see the letters, and then, at his request, let him take copies of them. This was at the time when Mr. Hilles was my Secretary, I judge from what Mr. Kohlsaat says. Mr. Hilles was not my Secretary until the latter part of my term, so that it must have been a year or two after the date of my letter to Horace. The fact that Mr. Kohlsaat did not publish the letters for twelve years is a fairly good indication that he had nothing of the kind in mind when he took them from me, because he is a newspaper man, and the wish to publish is naturally strong with him.

Let me renew the expression of my grateful appreciation of your kindness in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm. H. Taft".

Mr. George H. Lorimer,
Editor, The Saturday Evening Post,
Philadelphia, Pa.