July 20, 1936.

Hon. Herbert H. Lehman,
Executive Mansion,
Albany, New York.

My dear Governor:

I thought the enclosed editorial which appeared in our July 19th issue entitled "The Ancient 'Economic Royalists' Fought Pericles" would be of interest to you.

History affords a striking parallel between the President and Pericles with whom the Golden Age of Athens is identified. We are building up this comparison in appealing to the American Greek voters.

Mr. Kehaya and I have given instructions to the Editorial Department to conduct an aggressive campaign in behalf of the President and your goodself.

With kindest personal regards,

I am

Sincerely,

DEAN ALFANGE,
General Counsel.
AND PERICLES LAUNCHED A PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM TO STOP UNEMPLOYMENT

Pericles was an aristocrat; he was the partisan of the forgotten man. He was an orator. He had trouble with the Supreme Court of Athens. Pericles was a big navy man. He paid hordes of citizens for serving the State. He maintained a "brain trust." He managed currency and expanded credit. He went in for a vast program of public works in order to relieve unemployment and in order to prime the fountains of trade.

Pericles saved Athens; he left the divine city stronger and incomparably more magnificent than it was when he found it. But Pericles was the target of the Athenian equivalent of "big business." He was lied about, slandered and hated.

Pericles was an aristocrat. He was descended from noble parents from whom he inherited great estates. But Pericles took his position with the poor and the many, and not with the rich and the few. He joined the People's Party. He was accused of being a traitor to his class.

Pericles was an orator and his superb command of language and of nuance in speech won him the jealousy and hatred of the aristocracy. When his warm voice was heard, the people thrilled; the aristocrats grew bitter and envious.

Pericles had difficulty with the Supreme Court of Ancient Athens. Pericles and his lieutenants found it necessary to transfer some of the functions of the "Court-Held-Sacred" to the Boule and the Ecclesia. It was considered an act of impiety, but the great Athenian patriot would not allow superstition and the forces of reaction to stand in the way of the well-being of his beloved Athens and his fellow citizens.

Pericles was a big-navy man. His father had held high command in the Athenian Navy; the son brought the fleet to a high degree of efficiency. He paid many people for serving the state and was accused of securing the allegiance of the common man by buying his vote with state funds.

Pericles maintained a brain-trust. Counseling him were the great minds of his day; Zeno the Eleatic, Anaxagoras, Herodotus and Sophocles were those who, through their influence with Pericles, helped to shape the policy of Periclean Athens. He managed currency; by spending and borrowing he eased the frozen credit of the Athens of his day.

Pericles went in for a vast program of public works. He saw the fearful consequences of unemployment and the subsequent drying up of the
forces of creative business. He started farming colonies, sending out-of-work Athenians to the Chersonese as planters; to the Island of Naxos, to Thrace, Italy, Andros and elsewhere. Thus he got rid of the unfortunate who because of their misfortunes were becoming radical; he beguiled the competition for positions, and he gave his unemployed profitable labor in camps not unlike those of the C.C.C. of our day.

He was accused of putting all Athens in the pay of the State, but Pericles said that he enabled Athens to become beautiful and to maintain herself in commerce, primed again to flow by the expenditure of public monies. The vast buildings he planned gave direct employment from public appropriations to dealers in stone and brass, in ivory, gold and wood; workers were directly benefitted as he employed smiths and carpenters, masons, founders, dyers, painters, stone-cutters and many others.

Other trades were aided, for the cargoes had to come by animal and by sea: So merchants and mariners, cartwrights, waggoners, cattle-breeders, rope-makers, shoemakers and all the trades got new and profitable employment. And business opened its doors again, and stores sold merchandise while the storekeepers spent their profits, and the whole of the financial fabric was restored.

Not less than the good done the merchants and the workers of Athens was the glory which Pericles placed about the brow of the fairest city man has known. That Athens always will be known as The Most Beautiful is due to God and Pericles; God who gave Athens her natural beauties and Pericles who spurred man to enhance the loveliness nature gave her.

Pericles saved Athens: he protected his beloved city from her enemies at home and abroad; he saved Athenians from poverty and starvation and the by-product of his humanitarianism left Athens a reputation and a beauty which are undying — the pride and envy of mankind of every clime and age.

But Pericles was the target of the aristocrats who felt he had betrayed them. He was one of their order, yet he put himself on the side of the "common" man. He was one of their circle, yet he abridged their rights in favor of justice for all citizens of Athens. He was an aristocrat and a member of the class which was the equivalent of the Economic Royalists of the United States. Yet he attacked abuse by his own caste and abated their ability to exploit the rank and file.

His fellow aristocrats wrote verses about him in as poor taste as the caricatures and verses prepared by the Republican National Committee of today. The verses joked about his appearance; Plutarch quotes one of them as follows:

"Painting underneath the head
Of his own head, and now abroad,
From his huge gallery of a pate,
Sends forth trouble to the state.

Yes, the unusual largeness of his head encouraged the smart-alecks of his day to call him schinoccephalos, or "sea-onion head." When the gutter records a reflection, the reflection is distorted by the scum and film of the gutter. But the object reflected is not soiled.

Do not we have a modern parallel? Allow for the difference in the age, in the land and in the complexity of the problems. Do we not have a Leader who is a member of a proud family? Is he not found on the side of the People?

Franklin Roosevelt is a Philhellen. He is a modern counter-part of Pericles. He cares more for the People and their rights and for America and its rights than he does for vested privilege of the few. He believes that those who should pay for the needs of state are those who have the capacity to pay. He has primed the financial pump; he has gone in for a vast program of public works so that all industry and commerce and trades may get employment, so that the consequent flowing of money will start again the flow of American business.

He, like Pericles, has saved his country from poverty and ruin. In saving the country, he has saved the poor and by saving them he has saved the rich. He has reduced the "radicals:" for they were restless only because of their poverty. And in prosecuting his vast and humanitarian works, Mr. Roosevelt will leave America stronger and more beautiful than he found it.

But Privilege and Greed attack our President as they assaulted Athens' Archon. They have lied and slandered and hated our President. But his tranquil nature, "steeled by the philosophy he lives, stands firm as bed-rock.

Franklin Roosevelt's voice, like Pericles', is warm, inspiring. Franklin Roosevelt, like Pericles, has won the hatred of the Privileged Classes; like Pericles, he keeps aloof from petty quarrels. Roosevelt, like Pericles, is the target of the slanders of the low taste and worse manners of many of the "upper" classes.

But the scum and filth of the gutter never can reflect a clean image; the vile lies and slanders directed against Pericles, against Roosevelt, are detected by the "common" man who, after all, is the Real Man. Pericles was their man, Roosevelt, too, belongs to the People.