The Honorable Herbert Lehman  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.  

Dear Herbert:  

I am addressing this letter to you in the hope that you will be interested in the program of the Harry S. Truman Library. You will find enclosed a booklet entitled "The Harry S. Truman Library." This reveals the plan to erect a special archives building on the Truman Farm at Grandview, Missouri. You will see that a proper corporation has been formed under the law of the State of Missouri, that the President has agreed to donate a site on the farm, and that the library will ultimately become the possession of the United States Government just as did the Hyde Park repository of the papers of Franklin D. Roosevelt.  

George Allen, who is Treasurer of the campaign to raise funds for the library, stopped at Albuquerque last weekend to discuss it. We felt that the Harry S. Truman Library campaign should be associated with the proposal which Beardsley Ruml made to the National Planning Organization. You may not have noticed the report of the Business Committee of the National Planning Organization so I am going to review to you briefly what Ruml and his associates pointed out.  

They see a dramatic transformation in tax rates since 1939 which they contend gives business a great opportunity to use the legal permission to contribute tax free 5% of its earnings.  

Had a business tried that twelve years ago and contributed $100 to the Harry S. Truman Library, it would have paid out $81 of the stockholders' money and $19 that would otherwise have gone to the government in taxes.  

As this letter is being written, a new tax bill is under consideration and should be in conference between the Senate and House by now. Whatever finally happens, for even the most favorably situated corporation about half of such a contribution would be money that otherwise would go to the government in tax. If the business is in the high excess profit rates, the stockholders' share of the donation would be only $20 on a $100 contribution and all the rest of the money would have gone for taxes anyway.
In the case of individuals whose income touches the higher brackets, it's a wise plan to give away a good deal of the money that hits the top levels. Ruml pointed out that it is wiser for corporations to give contributions to a University or to a research organization (and I am sure he would have added the Harry S. Truman Library had he thought about it) than to spend the money on advertising or public relations.

I think he has stated our case very well.

We are in the business of raising a million dollars to guarantee that the papers of our President during this extremely important period in world history will be held together, - the papers of President Truman which deal with the launching of the United Nations, the Potsdam Conference and the difficult year-by-year struggle to cope with the Communist menace on a worldwide scale. Future historians will bless the names of those people who have contributed their dollars to this worthwhile enterprise.

We are barely started in most of the States but I am hopeful that we can put enough energy into this campaign so that at Christmas time we can hand certificates of deposit to President Truman showing that the fund has been raised. Knowing his great personal interest in this project, I can think of no Christmas gift which would give him a greater lift as he looks forward to 1952 than to receive at the close of 1951 the evidence that the Harry Truman Library has been financed.

George Allen and I decided that a letter should go to a few hundred people across this nation who have either evidenced strong friendship for the President or great interest in the struggle for world peace with which he has been associated. I tried personal appeals just before I left Washington and from one business man received two $5,000 contributions from his friends and his own check for $14,000 raising his personal contribution to $5,000. We have had responses ranging from a hundred dollars on up. State chairmen are being appointed in many of the states to raise funds but the chairman in your state may never call on you. I know that the President would be happy to have George Allen, as Treasurer, drop in at the White House and show him your contribution. Won't you read the enclosed pamphlet about the Harry S. Truman Library and then send your check to George Allen or to me?

Sincerely yours,

Clinton P. Anderson

CPA:lm