April 10, 1940

Dear Governor Lehman:

I am arranging a small luncheon for Tuesday, April 16th, at the Hotel Astor, at 12:45, at which I would like very much to have you as my guest.

Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for men like yourself who take a leading part in the Jewish Welfare Activities, to meet Edgar Salinger who has just undertaken the chairmanship of the 1940 New York City Campaign for the American ORT Federation.

Mr. Salinger, as a Director of the National Refugee Service, has had better opportunity than most of us to realize the urgent necessity for constructive help that will make possible the refugee's economic reestablishment in his new home. He therefore accepted this call to service, knowing that through ORT's industrial centers, trade and agricultural schools and workshops, located in all of the countries which fringe the Nazi-dominated areas of Europe, and in England, thousands have been and are being retrained for new occupations. And this provides that vital step beyond emergency relief which alone can make the refugee self-sufficient.

Another guest will be Lord Marley, British Statesman and Soldier. Led by his interest in the refugee problem, Lord Marley has been Chairman of the British Parliamentary Advisory Council of ORT, and has seen the operation of the ORT schools throughout Europe. I am sure his eye-witness report will be of great interest to you.

I look forward to receiving your acceptance on the enclosed card. There will be no solicitation of funds.

Sincerely yours,

George Backer,
President,
American ORT Federation