December 13, 1948

The Honorable Alben Barkley
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Barkley:

1949 will mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association at 92nd Street and Lexington Avenue, New York City. The oldest and largest Jewish community center in the United States, the Y has provided educational, cultural and recreational facilities for three-quarters of a century. It has today over twelve thousand members. The Y has inaugurated a year-long program in order dramatically to project to the community its many activities and services. A special period of celebration is scheduled for the month of March, extending from March 11th through the actual founding date of March 22nd.

At that time a special ceremony is planned, on which occasion a number of the Y's most distinguished living alumni will be appropriately honored for their contribution to the welfare of our Country, State and City. This distinguished group contains such names as Mr. Bernard M. Baruch, Mr. Lawrence Steinhardt, Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Jr., and Judge Joseph M. Froskauer.

It is the profound hope and desire of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Y that such awards be presented by a national figure who has long been identified with and close to the interests of the people. It is, therefore, our earnest wish that you will consent to lend great significance to this occasion and honor the YM & YWHA on its seventy-fifth anniversary by appearing as guest of honor and principal speaker at this culminating event.

While the actual founding date is March 22nd, and it was the original thought of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary Committee to hold this special ceremony on that date, please be assured that the Y's Seventy-fifth Anniversary Program could be re-arranged to suit your convenience, and this special event could very well take place any date between March 11th and March 22nd.
Needless to say, your participation would add great luster to the YM & YWHA's Seventy-fifth Anniversary, and all those concerned with this organization and its Anniversary Program do hope that you will be able to be with us to honor those who have performed such outstanding services to the United States and to the Jewish community.

Because of the many details involved in the development of this program, your early, and we hope, favorable consideration of this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

Copy sent to Louis M. Leib
25 Broadway