July 23, 1954

Honorable Irving Ives, U. S. S.
U. S. Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Ives:

I note that the resolution of censure of Senator McCarthy sponsored by Senator Flanders of Vermont is to come to a vote at the end of the present session of Congress. As a citizen and voter I should like to take this opportunity to encourage you to join Senator Lehman in voting in favor of the pending resolution.

As I understand the form and timing of the present resolution, two of the principal objections to the original resolution have been removed: (i) the fear that the seniority system of the Senate would be jeopardized by passage; (ii) the fear that debate on the resolution would hold up enactment of the Administration legislative program.

Although I would never approve of the methods of Senator McCarthy, I should prefer that the national climate of opinion could handle the Senator by laughter, silence, and eventual removal from office by ballot. Unfortunately, his activities take place in the context of complex problems which have caused anxiety with resulting hysteria. Senator McCarthy exercises real power. The Senator abuses it to the extent of destroying presumably innocent fellow-citizens, bad in itself, worse as a precedent. The Senator, as the principal figure, represents a divisive influence at home when united support of a reasoned foreign policy by citizens of both parties is required. His activities, as I can attest from first-hand knowledge, have aroused deep misgivings in the minds of people from all walks of life in our allied countries and have led to a skillful and successful propaganda campaign abroad by the Communists and others hostile...
to the United States. In view of the foregoing facts, I do not believe that the informal means suggested will suffice. I believe further that the responsibility for action rests with the United States Senate, which gave him his forum, his chairmanship, and his appropriations.

Specifically, the following activities seem to call for rebuke from the Senate.

1. The methods and procedures of the Senator as committee chairman;

2. The questionable financial transactions and income tax statements of the Senator and his refusal to respond to formal inquiries thereon by the Senate;

3. The Senator's receipt and attempt to communicate classified defense information and his encouragement of government employees to continue to transmit such information.

On this third point, it should be noted that the Senator justifies his plea by the same rationalization which the Communists use, i.e. a "higher calling" than the positive law. An investigation of law persuades me that those, such as the Army officer, who transmit classified information to an unauthorized person are criminally liable. An investigation of law further persuades me that the Senator stands a substantial chance of criminal liability for his receipt of such information.

For the reasons outlined above, I do not believe that you can properly stand aside from your duty to vote in favor of the resolution introduced by Senator Flanders.

Very truly yours,

Paul E. Bragdon