December 6, 1963

Dear Mrs. Lerner,

All of the sincerity have been expressed and all of the deserved tributes have been rendered anew. And all has been said -- ultimately inadequately -- with an eloquence which I could not improve upon and with an intensity of feeling which Mrs. Brodson and I share.

The Governor had been one of my heroes as a youth and young man. It was not until 1937 that I became acquainted with him as a man -- and the dimension of the fallible human being was added as a test of his greatness! Quite simply, it was during this short period that the Governor assumed uniquely heric proportions to me.
At this moment, many references and incidents come to mind. Each of them represents a footnote to a lifelong consideration, courtesy and generosity. I can but hope that he was aware of the respect, affection and loyalty he inspired in Mrs. Brougham and me - and even in some way in our young son, David. Although our sentiments were small return for all that he gave us, we can hope that he derived some of his satisfaction in life from such uncommon virtues so commonly intended for him.

You were quite correct in your remarks at his Birthday party: all of us
there -- and many elsewhere -- had one thing
in common, our love for him. You did
not state, but should know that the
sentiment includes you as well.

If it can be of any assist-
ance to you at this, or any other
time, please do not hesitate to call
upon me.

Sincerely,

Paul Bragdon