Honorable Herbert H. Lehman
United States Senate

My dear Senator:

With reference to our consideration of Alaskan statehood, a piece of information has come to me which is so astonishing that I felt you might want to know of it.

A substantial movement has apparently developed in the Territory to declare that Alaska has the right to separate from the United States if statehood is not granted promptly. From the information I have received to date, I am not yet in a position to judge just how serious this "statehood or independence" movement is. But it is not led by cranks or persons of no standing. It has already reached the dignity of a resolution formally introduced in the Territorial House of Representatives by all seven of the members from the Anchorage division. This is the same group of representatives who now hope, through a rearrangement in representation within Alaska, to have enough delegates from the Anchorage division to dominate the convention which would draft the proposed state constitution. For your information, I enclose a photostat of a news clipping giving the full text of the resolution.

I feel sure, of course, that most Alaska residents disapprove highly of such tactics. In fact, many of them have already publicly branded it "disgraceful", "disloyal", and "treasonable." Whether the memorial is finally approved by the legislature or not, it indicates to me a total lack of any sense of responsibility on the part of those sponsoring it. I believe that in any consideration of statehood this year, we should give most careful study to the motivations and loyalties of the ruling faction in Alaska which have led them to sponsor this type of proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Hugh Butler
Nebraska

Enclosure