June 6, 1950

Honorable Harry F. Byrd
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Senator Byrd:

Since I understand that the Conference Committee on S. 2240 is scheduled to meet this week, I thought you would be interested in having available a letter that I have just received from Secretary of the Air Force Thomas K. Finletter in regard to the Watson Laboratories.

I assume that you will receive from him a formal report on this and other aspects of S. 2240 but I wished to make certain that there would be brought to your attention Secretary Finletter's most recent statement of policy with regard to the transfer of the Laboratories to Rome, New York.

You will see from this letter that Secretary Finletter continues to support the program worked out under his predecessor, namely, the transfer of Watson Laboratories to Rome, New York. Secretary Finletter makes the point that the move would be in the interests of economy as well as of the national defense. Secretary Finletter asserts in this letter that the move to Griffiss Air Force Base would result in an original saving of $14,000,000 in capital outlay, not to speak of large annual savings in operating expenses.

I know that you will take these circumstances under consideration in your deliberations on this aspect of the pending measure.

With every good wish,

Yours very sincerely,

Herbert H. Lehman