January 11, 1954

Honorable William E. Jenner  
Chairman  
Rules and Administration Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.  

Dear Senator Jenner:

Last July 13th I introduced two Senate Resolutions, S. Res. 144 and S. Res. 145, proposing changes in the Rules of the Senate so as to require a quorum call and a roll call vote on (a) treaties and (b) proposals for Constitutional amendments.

With all the concern that has been, and is being expressed, concerning the importance of treaties and the danger that they may be negotiated and approved treaties which are not fully in accord with the best interests of the United States, it would seem most desirable, and most urgent, that immediate action be taken on these proposals, regardless of the outcome of the consideration by the Senate of the so-called Bricker Resolution.

These resolutions represent procedural changes which will insure that any Constitutional amendment or any treaty will receive the consideration of a majority of the Senate and not be approved by voice vote, with only a handful of Senators on the floor as has, regrettably, been the case in some instances in recent years.

I am aware that the Majority Leader has, since I introduced my proposals, indicated that he would follow their intent as a matter of routine. Still, I think the country would be reassured by the formal approval of these resolutions.

I, therefore, suggest and urge that your Committee give the earliest possible consideration to these proposals, with a view to taking action upon them.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Herbert H. Lehman