Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

August 19, 1933.

Hon. Herbert H. Lehman,
Governor of New York,
Albany, New York.

My dear Governor:

New York State has paid out, I am informed, over $22,000,000 during the last few decades for the maintenance of aliens declared insane and the dependents of insane aliens.

This expense was incurred by New York State partly in cases where the federal government failed, neglected or refused to deport, and the State was powerless to do anything other than maintain these poor unfortunates.

I do believe that effort should be made to compensate the State of New York for this outlay. New York, of course, is our gateway and has been since the beginning of the nation.

I have not all the facts at hand to adequately prepare for the introduction of an appropriate bill and for the work that would insure its passage following the introduction. If I can have your cooperation, I shall be most willing to sponsor such legislation. Very likely there is in your office some file containing data on this matter.

With cordial good wishes, and trusting that you and Mrs. Lehman and the children are enjoying the best of health, I am

Sincerely yours,

Emanuel Celler

P.S. Permit me to say that your reaction and pronouncements concerning the ridiculous demands of New York City concerning tax matters were most admirable and have won most favorable comment on all sides.