August 1, 1956

Honorable Earle C. Clements
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Earle:

I was not aware until this morning of the very complimentary references to me which you made in connection with your statement of July 27th in the Senate on immigration legislation. I need not tell you, I am certain, that I have read the statement with keen pleasure and satisfaction. I am very grateful to you for your generous remarks regarding the part which I have played for many years in the fight for immigration reform.

I have felt deeply that efforts to bring about reform in our immigration and citizenship laws justified a crusade and would have the wholehearted support of the great majority of our people if the issues were sufficiently understood. It was a source of sincere regret to me that the very moderate bill which was passed in the Senate on the last day of the session was killed in the House. The reforms, while going only a very little way, would have represented, in my opinion, an advance and would have helped to make the McCarran-Walter Act and the Refugee Relief Act more humane and more flexible and, as you have stated, more in keeping with the spirit and tradition of America.

Again, many thanks for your references to me. I very much look forward to seeing you in Chicago next week.

With kind personal regards, I am

Yours very sincerely,