Dear Judge Cohn:

I have your letter of July 21 which I have read with much interest and to which I have now given considerable thought.

Let me say, first of all, that I thoroughly appreciate your reactions. Surely, as Roy Cohn's father, your feelings are understandable and I honor you for them. Indeed, I suppose it is somewhat foolhardy of me to dispute with you and Mrs. Cohn over the activities of one who is necessarily so near and dear to you.

Yet, since your letter conveys such strong criticism of me and my motives, and since I am aware of the confidence you have had in me in the past, I believe that I owe you some reply to the statements you make.

I want to make clear that my criticism of your son and of Mr. David Schine has been purely incidental to my deep concern over the entire trend in American life epitomized by Senator McCarthy and by his irresponsible assumption of the role of prosecutor, jury and judge in regard to the loyalty of American citizens. Surely you, as a veteran jurist, must know how tenuous and subjective is the matter of loyalty, and how precious are the legal safeguards developed to protect the rights of persons accused of crime.

Yet Senator McCarthy sees fit to charge people indiscriminately with treason and while "trying" them on these charges, sweeps away all the safeguards assured in our courts to every individual. He makes charges of "disloyalty" or "treason" against any and all persons with whose political orthodoxy he is not personally satisfied, or whose condemnation serves his peculiar purposes. He charges them, tries them and convicts them in one operation...and under the cloak of congressional immunity. I suppose that Senator McCarthy has, in fact, "exposed" some Communists. I don't happen to know of any but I am ready to assume that there have been some. But he has also "exposed" people like the beloved General George Marshall and Judge Dorothy Kenyon, whom you must know. And hundreds of others.

Would you be satisfied that justice had been served if out of a hundred persons condemned for crimes, a handful were, in fact, guilty?

What I am trying to say is that Senator McCarthy has aroused in me the deepest concern for the preservation of our civil liberties. I have been shocked and alarmed not only at the innocents unjustly
accused but at the entire spirit of fear and hate and prejudice which he has helped to stir up in the country, holding us up to world ridicule.

As for your son, I have no strong feelings against him. I never even mentioned his name until a fortnight ago when Senator McCarthy used your son as a shield behind whom to accuse Senator Monroney of anti-Semitism. Are you ready to agree with Senator McCarthy that Senator Monroney's statements were in fact a "flagrant example of anti-Semitism"?

You cite my reference to your son in my speech before the New York Democratic dinner in April, and ask for documentary support of the statement I made. I refer you to the report of your son's visit to England appearing on page 19 of the New York Times of April 21. I refer you also to news reports on page E-9 of the New York Times and page B-9 of the Washington Post of April, and to Drew Pearson's column of the same date. There have been a number of magazine articles to the same effect. All reports describe the terrific turmoil Mr. Roy Cohn and Mr. David Schine aroused in Europe, and the adverse reactions which followed their "tour."

But this is not really the point. The real point is Senator McCarthy and the forces which he represents. These forces are led by men of power and dangerous potentiality. I do not consider your son to be among them. He, I assume, is doing a professional job that has been assigned to him, under instructions. Undoubtedly he has great ability. Were it not for his particular flair for publicity, he would not have come in for criticism at all. Obviously, however, he cannot play a public role in these matters and escape public criticism.

In regard to your statement challenging my right to speak for all the Jews of America, I do not presume that right. I expressed what I believed would be the reaction of most members of our faith. I think I spoke accurately. I enclose, for your information, copies of statements issued, independently, by a number of Jewish organizations which are not involved in politics at all, but are actively engaged in protecting Jews against anti-Semitism.

I am sorry if I have hurt your feelings and those of Mrs. Cohn, as well as those of the friends to whom you refer. I do
not like to hurt the feelings of anybody. But I said what I thought was not only right but urgently necessary, under the circum-
stances.

I still think it was so.

Sincerely,