Hon. Herbert H. Lehman  
United States Senate  
Senate Chamber  
Washington, D.C.

August 10, 1953

Dear Senator Lehman:

Permit me to acknowledge with thanks your letter of the first instant. Your courtesy in replying is very much appreciated. I feel sure that you wish me to be completely frank in replying to your communication. You state that you delayed writing because the answer "must necessarily involve unpalatable observations" and because of your sympathy toward us "for the pain caused by our son's activities." My letter to you was written not to enlist your sympathy, but solely to ask you to justify your sweeping denunciations.

With profound respect, may I say that you are completely in error when you assume that my son's activities have caused either Mrs. Cohn or myself any distress. His public service, particularly his part in fighting communism and in helping to rid our government of the communists who are holding positions of trust, has been publicly commended by numerous United States Grand Juries, by United States Attorney General McGranery, and most recently by the subcommittee of the House headed by Honorable Kenneth B. Keating, Congressman from New York. In this battle against disloyal Americans and those in the government employ who took refuge behind the Fifth Amendment he has, I am sure, the support of the great bulk of our citizenry.

In my letter I humbly asked that you be gracious enough to supply facts which sustain your shocking condemnation. It is scarcely necessary to repeat your strictures which I quoted verbatim in my earlier communication to you. Having read and re-read your letter I must confess my inability to find any fact which could sustain the glittering generalizations in which you so freely indulged. The only report which you set forth is a comment you quote, but which Roy never made. If it were made, obviously it does not, either in just or in seriousness, justify your conclusion that he or they "presumed to sit in solemn judgment on the loyalty of our Ambassador to Great Britain".

You make reference to reports from newspaper reporters to his activities while abroad. What those reports were are not mentioned. It is difficult, indeed, to understand how anyone could possibly employ your characterization and reach the conclusion that "these two brash and brazen youths turned all our embassies and foreign missions upside down". Nor am I able to find in your letter any factual justification for the statement made on the floor of the Senate that "many individuals of the Jewish faith as well as of Christian denomination, without distinction, have repeatedly criticized and repudiated the antics of these two young men." What "antics" you refer to still remains wholly unexplained.

Your statement in the Senate to the effect that you are "certain that most American Jews are anything but proud of the two young men", you base on the volume of mail received and from reports of individual Jews and from statements of Jewish organizations allegedly reported in the press. I do not know which pile of mail is more voluminous, nor have I seen any critical statement of any Jewish
organization in the press relative to their work. On the contrary, may I point out that any number of people of our faith and organized groups have highly commended these young men for their splendid contribution to Americanism, as Jews, in taking so active a part in the fight against communists and their sympathizers, and in clearing them out of the governmental agencies.

My Son cheerfully accepted the invitation of Senator McCarthy and his committee to serve as its counsel. He has had no occasion to regret that decision. He has worked industriously and diligently to carry on the important work of the committee. In the performance of his duty he has endeavored to the best of his ability to complete the tasks assigned to him, and he will continue to do so.

You have always been highly esteemed and respected in our community for your high ethical standards. Surely in your criticism of the work of Roy and his companion it cannot now be your purpose to indulge in (quoting your own words) "indifference to the facts" and in "sweeping, indiscriminate denunciation".

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Albert Cohn

AC:e