April 21, 1950

Honorable Paul H. Douglas
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator Douglas:

I have prepared an amendment to H. R. 6000 to extend the coverage now provided under this bill to a large group of domestic employees who are not now covered under the terms of the House Bill and who have not been covered by amendments considered by the Senate Finance Committee. This proposed amendment would cover domestic employees who work for the same employer on a regular basis but work only one day a week for the same employer. This amendment is aimed, of course, at covering those workers who work for a number of employers simultaneously on a day basis. H. R. 6000 already covers domestics who work two days a week or more for the same employer. The proposal to extend the coverage to domestics employed at least one day a week by the same employer was considered but not approved by the House Ways and Means Committee.

This practice of single day work is especially prevalent in cities and large communities. The employees thus proposed to be covered are, to my way of thinking, among the most deserving of social security coverage in that they have the least amount of security in their employment and in their provision for old age.

It is estimated by the Social Security Administration that this amendment would cover an additional 600,000 persons in an average week, and about 900,000 persons in the course of a year. While it may seem troublesome to require persons employing a maid or a domestic for one day a week to make social security payments, I think the general philosophy of social security urgently calls for the coverage of these domestics.
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I hope you can give this your early attention and indicate to me whether you consider it of sufficient merit to join with me in sponsoring this legislation. I am enclosing a copy of the proposed amendment and a brief explanatory statement.

Very sincerely yours,

Herbert H. Lehman