February 14th
1950

Dear Senator Lehman:

Having had the privilege of knowing you and working with you for a good many years while you were doing such splendid things as governor for our state I feel sure that the question of the Hydrogen Bomb has been as anxiety provoking to you as it has to me. I have been following everything I could find with the deepest concern.

Now I am taking the liberty of sending you a brief statement which I have thought through believing that in exchange of thought there may lie hope of finding another way than through such terrible weapons of destruction as are now to be executed by order of President Truman.

There have been two members of the Senate who have spoken out against the helpless impasse of our refusing to try once again to discuss the question of agreement with Russia. It has been said that we cannot rely upon them and every move they have made is ignored, derided as untrue and unreliable. I cannot help wondering whether this is fathered by our incredible fear. Is it not true that the Russians need time to work out their lives along the way of life they have chosen? Is it sane for them to want war instead of peace since war will divert them again from working out their domestic policies which they want to realize? This seems sanity to me just exactly as we need time and peace to work out our own national program toward a satisfactory conclusion for our people. We cannot do that unless we have opportunity unhindered by fear of war and destruction and the diversion of all or nearly all funds for war past and to be?

It seems to me that once again we should weigh all the avenues toward a warless world. Under the United Nations this surely could be brought about eventually and I am especially in sympathy with Senator Tydings argument against only eliminating these terrible bombs instead of the whole system. But the gradual elimination of all armaments is the beginning of wisdom it seems to me through the United Nations.

I am certain that you, Senator Lehman could do a great deal to help develop a new attitude on this whole question and save the world from perdition by the refusal to make new efforts toward understanding between the only two great nations left. It would mean more than you can realize to break this stranglehold of fear psychosis our nation is suffering from. You have done such great things and rendered such noble service and you are just the man to help in this mighty work.

With deep appreciation,

Mary S. Occier

P.S. Dear Senator: Please excuse mistakes. I am not used in writing and my fingers will strike wrong keys! There is no need to wait.