July 26, 1949

Dear Governor Lehman,

Thank God we have some men left in political life who are not afraid to come out in defense of freedom of speech not as a general principle but in a particular instance even when it endangers their career! The hysteria which pervades our people at the present time prevents clear thinking and causes them to fear giving voice to it. As you say, it is not whether one agrees with Mrs. Roosevelt’s view on federal aid to education—I do not know what her view is—one can not fail to agree as to her right to express it. Otherwise liberty of speech is on its way out. You have made Voltaire’s great dictum a living force once more.

Congratulations most heartily and my admiration for your statesmanship, always large, is greatly increased.
Copied from Governor's book, "Familiar Quotations":

Francois M. A. Voltaire
(Letter to Madame du Deffand)
"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."