United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 30, 1949.

The Honorable Herbert H. Lehman
820 Park Avenue
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Lehman:

I have just seen the attached copy of a section of a "Sample three-minute speech for sound truck," released on October 22nd by the Independent Citizens' Committee for your election. It tells your people to accuse me of bigotry on every street corner of New York.

I denounce that as malicious slander. I say, to quote the very words of the suggested speech:

"A more open appeal to bigotry, prejudice and un-Americanism is hard to imagine."

If elections are to be run in this way, it is a sorry day for our country.

On account of these charges, you have been publicly rebuked by such outstanding Americans as Bernard M. Baruch, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, James J. Rosenberg and many others. Yet your political agents intensify their efforts to spread this venom at every street corner.

Even in private life one who insults another is expected either to meet him face-to-face or to withdraw the charges. One who aspires to be United States Senator has an even clearer duty. I demand that you be man enough to meet me openly or apologize.
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No one who has racial or religious prejudices ought to hold public office. Also, no one ought to hold public office who injects that charge for partisan advantage.

What are the facts?

During this campaign, I have repeatedly warned against the danger of Communism and have said that it would be a frightening thing if a bloc of Communist American Labor Party voters became the balance of power in this State. Every press story of my remarks made clear that I was condemning the Communists in the American Labor Party and no one else. Yet you, and now your Committee, have isolated and twisted my words to insult the people of New York City who overwhelmingly feel as I do about this un-American bloc of Communist votes.

During this closing week of this campaign both you and I will be in New York City. I can see no reason why you should not meet me to debate (1) the ugly charge of bigotry you have raised against me, and (2) your denial that the American Labor Party, whose nomination you accepted in '46, was then Communist-controlled and dominated.
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You, yourself, on October 17th, said of these two topics that there was occasion to "clarify the record."

I demand that you do this in the only way that can be effective, by meeting me man-to-man.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN FOSTER DULLES

C.c. to 383 Madison Avenue
New York, N. Y.