January 20, 1933.

Hon. Herbert H. Lehman,
The Capitol,
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Herbert:

I see that the Committee of Eighty, known as the Economic Council, called on you to complain about increased taxes. I am writing to suggest that you procure for your private information data to show just what taxes these gentlemen have paid individually, or through their corporations, during the last few years. It is my impression that all of the loudest complainers are paying practically no taxes – federal or State – except, of course, real property taxes, as to which their complaint, in the main, must be local.

It may be possible for you, if the figures turn out the way I suspect they will, to stop a lot of ill-founded grumbling by giving one or two examples of complainants' tax situations. This can be done without divulging names.

Yours sincerely,

P.S. Don't bother to acknowledge receipt.