October 27, 1948

Mr. Harris P. Shane
Chairman, Loyalty Board
United States Department of Labor
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Shane:

It has been reported to me that Dr. Abraham Flexner’s loyalty to the United States Government has been questioned by your Board. I can hardly believe the report, but on the chance that it may be correct, I wish to register with you my estimate of Dr. Flexner, based on an acquaintance covering nearly half a century.

I know of few men who, in my opinion, have served their country with as great devotion or as usefully as Dr. Flexner. For many years he held very important positions in the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. He was a member of the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, and for ten years served as Director of the Institute For Advanced Study at Princeton, which is now headed by the well known scientist, Dr. Robert Oppenheimer.

For half a century Dr. Flexner has been a great educator, highly respected in this country and abroad. He has been the recipient of honorary degrees from many great universities including Harvard, Princeton, New York University, and the University of Berlin.

It comes as a great shock to me that a man who has lived as useful and exemplary a life as Dr. Flexner, should now, at the age of 82, be stigmatized by any responsible persons as being disloyal.

I will be glad to have my estimate of, and confidence in, Dr. Abraham Flexner made part of your records.

Very sincerely yours,