The Honorable Herbert H. Lehman  
Senate Office Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator:

I appreciate your personal letter of December twenty-seventh, and may I say that I have enjoyed the opportunity of being associated with you in the Senate and trust that you and Mrs. Lehman will experience many, many more years of happy and fruitful accomplishments.

With respect to Rule 22, I have, as you know, expressed reservations over the change of this rule because I have always felt that it was a protection to minority as well as majority interests in the Senate. Being from a small state, I have found at times that legislative matters in the Senate, which may serve the needs of a great many others, do not necessarily contribute to the welfare of a state such as mine.

In my judgment, the passage of civil rights legislation is possible even with the preservation of Rule 22.

It has always been my policy not to draw conclusions in advance of debate on any matter. Therefore, I will give the closest attention to all arguments brought forth before reaching a decision.

Sincerely yours,