Hon. Herbert E. Lehman  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Albany, N. Y.

My dear Governor Lehman:

Because I do not think that engaging in controversy solves any problem and because I never like to speak when I am stirred and agitated, I kept still Wednesday morning and had nothing to say to your statements concerning the budget. But for fear you may think my silence meant acquiescence, I am writing to you stating frankly my feelings in this matter.

Under Article 7, Section 4, of the Constitution, we in the Legislature are given the authority to reduce any items or the sum totals of the budget submitted by you. I take it that the people expect us to exercise this authority if we feel the necessity or they would not have approved it. In making these reductions, we have acted in good faith and because we felt it was for the best interests of the people and, as far as I am concerned, I shall continue to follow my conscience and judgment in these reductions.

I do agree with you that the budget has been a political vehicle. It always has and it always will, but I can say that I cannot see how it is any more political for us to take advantage of the demands of the people and reduce your sum totals than it is for your administration to seek approbation by claiming the entire credit for the surplus which we now have.

As I understand it, you practically told us that until you could be assured that these sum totals would not be reduced you were not going to add any appropriation, no matter how meritorious it might be, to the cost of government. If our state normal schools and highways must suffer because we felt it necessary to reduce the totals of your budget, there is nothing we can do about it.

I need not assure you, Governor, that I have the highest regard for you personally. I appreciate your sincerity, your honesty and your energy and I realize that you are exerting a fine leadership in this time of crisis and I will go with you just as far as I can, but if our paths diverge, it will be because I think my position is
for the betterment of my constituents and the State. I hope that you will understand our position and realize the sincerity of the motives. Of course politics will be involved and political methods will be used, both by you and the Legislature, but I trust we can keep them to the minimum.

Sincerely yours,

JOE R. HANLEY

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