August 19, 1955

Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Director
Selective Service System
451 Indiana Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear General Hershey:

Prior to his departure for Europe, Senator Lehman received a number of letters from young men with 1-A classification in the draft who are having great difficulty securing employment because of the attitude of prospective employers. Senator Lehman expressed great concern in this matter and, as a result, I wish to bring it to your attention for your consideration.

The problem of employment for those in 1-A draft status has indeed been serious ever since the inception of Selective Service, but this problem will become critical unless proper steps are taken. The extension of the draft for four more years, the enactment of the Reserve bill, the growing manpower pool, and the low monthly draft quotas will all result in a tremendous increase in the number of young men who are 1-A in the draft and who may not be called for induction for many months or years, if at all. Whereas this problem has been limited to a relatively small number in the past, it may well become an acute national problem.

Therefore Senator Lehman is most interested to learn what study and examination of this problem have been made by the Defense Department and the Selective Service System. Legislation may indeed be required, if it is possible to enact, but short of such legislative action, it would seem that the appropriate federal agencies might be considering a program of public education on this whole matter.

Therefore I should like to request some indication as to the thinking of the Selective Service System in connection with a program which it might institute and also as to whether the desired objective could be accomplished by legislation. I am sending a similar letter to the Secretary of Defense.

Yours very sincerely,

Julius C. C. Edelstein
Executive Assistant