HEADQUARTERS:
730 FIFTH AVE.
NEW YORK CITY
JUDSON 6-4400

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, OCT. 19, 1950

FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT FROM SENATOR HERBERT H. LEHMAN

The World Telegram has today printed a letter which I wrote to Alger Hiss. I draw attention to the date of my letter, August 6, 1943. This was long before his indictment, trial, and subsequent conviction, and I have no apology to make for it.

Alger Hiss was made President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on the recommendation of the committee composed of John W. Davis, John Foster Dulles and Arthur Ballantine.

Just as he had gained the confidence of these gentlemen and so many others, Mr. Hiss had gained my confidence when I saw something of him as a fellow member of the Citizens Committee for the Marshall Plan.

On this account, when Mr. Hiss categorically denied the charges made against him in the course of his appearance before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, in August 1948, I assumed that he was telling the truth. Accordingly, I did what I felt was the human thing to do. As I still attach great importance to that basic rule of conduct which has so long governed the Anglo-Saxon world -- to consider a man innocent until he has been found guilty -- I sent him a line to express my sympathy in the difficult position in which he found himself.

And that's all there is to the story.