Dear Mr. Lehman;

We the undersigned who have resided or worked in the Harlem community for many years write you this letter as an expression of our respect for you as a person and for you as a symbol of man's concern for the welfare of his fellow man. Because of this respect for you we also desire to express to you our deep concern about the present controversy about whom should become the Leader of the Democratic Party in New York County.

We understand your position as reported in the newspapers to be one in which you believe that this position should be held by a person who is identified with the reform wing of the Democratic Party. We agree with this position and principle. We have known Mr. J. Raymond Jones personally for many years. Our respect and admiration for Mr. Jones has increased tremendously during the past five years. During this period, Mr. Jones demonstrated his personal and political independence by his refusal to accept the dictation of Mr. DeSapio. As you know, he successfully fought Mr. DeSapio in the last Congressional election, prior to the present leadership controversy, in the Harlem community and most recently he asserted his independence of Mr. DeSapio by being the first leader to announce his support for the re-election of Mayor Wagner before the recent primaries.

Mr. Jones has demonstrated his dedication to the principles of a more Democratic Party organization at a time and in situations where it would have been easy for him to have taken a more expedient position. He has clearly
revealed by his behavior his identification with and acceptance of the basic principles of the reform movement which you so eloquently represent. We believe that Mr. Jones stands for exactly the same principles for which you stand.

We would like the opportunity to discuss this matter with you at greater length at your convenience. We respectfully request an appointment to do so.

Sincerely,

Kenneth B. Clark

Hubert T. Delany

Edward S. Lewis