November 18, 1943

Dear Mr. Lehman:

1944 will be one of the crucial years of American history. The great offensive against Europe will get under way, and, in all likelihood, the German surrender will come. The Battle of the Pacific will be in full swing all the way from the Kurile Islands to New Britain, and it is not out of the question that Japan will also be brought to its knees. Every new military success will test the unity of the United Nations and compel fresh and decisive political action.

While all these events unfold, we shall find ourselves in a national election with all the resulting excitement and passion.

It appears to me that it is not too soon to be preparing the public mind for what this election means to our national destiny. I am preparing a book on 1944 in which I stress the crucial nature of the election, plead for its conduct at a lofty level and emphasize the importance of choosing the right leaders.

My own serious conclusion is that Franklin Roosevelt should be reelected, since I see no man available who can match his stature among other nations, his grasp on the military situation, or his political acumen in domestic and foreign policies.

Wendell Willkie is the only avowed opposition candidate. His St. Louis speech and his articles in Look Magazine and Readers' Digest strengthen my conviction that we may well tremble for the nature of the campaign. We shall flirt with tragedy if the election endangers our war effort by undermining confidence in our leadership. This is not a party matter but a patriotic warning.

To give the strongest possible backing to my plea, I should like to include in my book brief statements by responsible persons who agree in general with my
position. Such statements will be printed in a separate section, and a clear statement will indicate that no other individual assumes any responsibility for what I say in the main and more controversial section of the volume.

Some well known figures have already agreed to make such statements. You are an American citizen who has won the respect of your fellows. I should consider it an honor to have any word from you in this book. Will you please give careful consideration to joining with me in this approach to 1944 to the extent of writing up to a hundred words on the importance of the election. If you care to support my conviction that President Roosevelt should be kept in office, I should naturally welcome that.

Sincerely yours,

Frank Kingdon

Hon. Herbert Lehman
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