Honorable Herbert H. Lehman  
Senator of the United States  
Senate Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Governor:

We old timers can never think of addressing you otherwise. I hesitate to become one of the pressures to add to your many problems, but I believe this of utmost importance.

My friend, Anita Pollitzer, tells me she has talked with you briefly on the matter of the "Equal Rights Amendment". She was most appreciative of your concern about the effects of the Senate Joint Resolution number 25, known as the Equal Rights Amendment if adopted, on some of the laws for women in industry in New York State.

As you will recall, I worked very hard to help enact most of the so-called protective legislation for women and children. Since I have been on the bench, I have had frequent occasion to observe the operation of these laws. The best that can be said in behalf of the laws and their administration is that they are almost useless. The Labor Unions are now recognizing the need for full protection of women. The changes which have occurred in working conditions and the trend of the times for greater equality seems to me to require a re-evaluation of our past position on special labor laws for women. As Democrats, we are faced with the fact that our party through its National platform has twice gone on record for the Equal Rights Amendment substantially in these words "we recommend to Congress the submission of a constitutional amendment on equal rights for women". The Republican party has also taken a similar stand. I need hardly tell you that I have devoted practically my entire public career to the advancement of the interests of women and children and that I am familiar with the legal interpretation and the significance of such an amendment. Therefore, I cannot urge you too strongly to stand by our platform and become one of the leading advocates of equal rights for women. I am also not unmindful of the pressures that are exerted to prevent the passage of the amendment. I would rather not write about it but some day discuss it in person.

In closing may I however observe that the pressures and oppositions are diminishing. With best wishes and congratulations on the fine reports I get about our junior Senator and warm regards to Mrs. Lehman, I am

Sincerely,

Anna M. Kross

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