July 29, 1955

Senator Herbert H. Lehman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator:

I am enclosing an analysis of the four proposed bills. I am sorry to have taken so long to prepare the material, but the pressure of work in the department has prevented its completion until this time.

In addition to the enclosed analysis, I would like to comment generally on the value of the bills as a contribution to the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency.

1. The Runaway Childrens Act seems to be functionally sound. Of course this bill is restricted to a minor phase of the problem of child care.

2. While the idea of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents in conservation camps is sound, such camps would be far more effective if run by the states, rather than by the federal government. Such a program was instituted by the state of New York this year. It would seem that the purposes of the corps would be better served by establishing grants-in-aid to the states to establish and operate such state conservation camps.

3. Both the Kefauver and Wiley Bills have three (3) major deficiencies.
   - A. An overemphasis on federal control
   - B. Inadequate appropriations
   - C. Failure to lay stress on research

   a. Due to the extremely localized nature of the juvenile delinquency problem, the federal government's role should be limited to providing financial assistance, conducting research, and offering advisory service to the states. Both the proposed bills provide, on the other hand, for an extensive system of federal supervision over the state programs through the federal government's power to set standards for the state programs, and through the freedom of the Secretary to allocate certain monies for training and research without restriction.
b. The money appropriated by either bill is far too small to make much of an impact on the problem. The inadequacy of these bills seems evident when one compares figures like $25,000 or $30,000 with the amounts a state needs to set up adequate programs as outlined in the act.

c. Since the money to be appropriated is so limited, it might be better utilized by the federal government in research conducted primarily through pilot projects in already established correction institutions.

However, whether the money is used primarily for research or as presently planned, even an inadequate bill would be a step forward since it would create a foundation on which future acts can be built.

Moreover, the act will point up federal responsibility in meeting the problem of juvenile delinquency, which is today, a national problem.

Trusting that this material may be of some use to you, and hoping to see you again in the near future,

I remain as ever,

[Signature]

ANNA M KROSS
Commissioner

encl.
AMK:sm

P.S. Please convey my warm regards to Miss Lehman.

[Signature]