No other state in the Union has been so blessed with governors of exceptional ability as has New York State. Among the greatest in this line of chief executives stands Herbert H. Lehman, and it can be stated with indisputable positiveness that no other period of four years has resulted in so much progressive, humane and truly significant legislation as has been enacted during his time of vigorous, forthright and fearless leadership.

So much has been accomplished during these past four years that it is impossible to do justice either to Governor Lehman or to his magnificent record within the time limit of a brief discussion. Even a resume would take, literally volumes. Let us, then, figuratively turn the pages of the record and read where the eye falls:

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

The progressive and humane social security program sponsored by Governor Lehman has been universally recognized as the most outstanding achievement in the history of this Country. This record is made even more remarkable because it was accomplished over the stubborn and bitter opposition of the Republican Party in the Legislature. This opposition has not been confined to Legislative halls, but is being carried into this campaign by the Republicans, who, recognizing the Governor's impregnable position, are attacking the Social Security Program and the philosophy behind it. In the words of Assemblyman Wadsworth, spokesman of the Republican Party in the Assembly, the Republican position is as follows, "There can be no such thing as 'Social Security' in this world of ours today," Governor Lehman has refused to accept this point of view, and points with justifiable pride to his eight-point Social Security Program consisting of:


**STATE FINANCES**

When Governor Lehman assumed office in January, 1933, there was an accumulative deficit of $114,000,000. Today, despite the terrific demands made upon the State by the tragic problems of relief, the accumulative deficit has been cut more than half -- the reduction being $58,000,000. In order to achieve this remarkable
result it has been necessary for the State to live within its income so that, in a very real sense, New York State under Governor Lehman, has had a balanced budget. This fact is eloquently reflected in the position of State securities and the State’s credit. State bonds have been marketed at the lowest net interest rate in history.

ECONOMY NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF HUMAN NEEDS

The State Government, under Governor Lehman, has been run economically. There has been no extravagance and there has been no waste. True, the budget has increased, and taxes have grown. But, thanks to the improvement of business, these taxes have not borne so heavily upon the taxpayers as did the taxes of the years before. The increased expenditures were all due to the problem of relief. Had the unemployed been left to shift for themselves, had the hungry been permitted to starve, had the State’s contribution to education and public health been curtailed, the budget would have been lower — and that is the only way the expenses of the State could have been reduced. But, in the words of Governor Lehman himself, “We will never permit false economy to weaken our schools, our hospitals, our parks and our health activities.”

LABOR

As in the case of Welfare, more Labor Legislation of real significance has been enacted during Governor Lehman’s four years in office than in any similar period in the history of the State. Existing laws have been strengthened, new laws — like Unemployment Insurance — have been enacted. He has brought about the extension of the principle of Workmen’s Compensation to include hitherto uncovered diseases, such as silicosis, and he has brought about a more liberal treatment of the men and women who have been wounded in industrial service. In short, the Governor’s record has been so impressive that Labor again has endorsed his candidacy for re-election and he has won the unanimous praise of Labor leaders throughout the world, regardless of their political beliefs or party affiliations.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

The epical fight of Governor Lehman to bring about truly effective regulation of public utilities, resulting in lower electric and gas rates for the consumers, has been one of the most dramatic episodes in the history of this country. Here, again, he had to fight the bitter opposition of a hostile Republican Party. But again, he was able to win for the citizens of New York State legislation bringing them great benefits. Vicious abuses existing in certain holding companies were remedied. He strengthened the Public Service Commission Law insuring the right of the public to intervene and adequately protect its rights in rate litigations.
He opened the door to municipal ownership and operation in localities in which the taxpayers so desired. In another law he brought about open public bidding on contracts, creating the desirable situation of having the contract awarded to the lowest bidder. This has resulted in great savings, which savings have been passed on to the consumers through lowered rates, amounting in the single year of 1935, alone, to more than $16,000,000.

**RURAL ELECTRIFICATION**

Governor Lehman has always held to the belief that the rural communities should enjoy the same comforts and conveniences as the cities. To this end he has striven to make electric light and power, at low rates, available to the farmers of the State. Rural electrification has received its greatest impetus as the result of Governor Lehman's efforts, and already rural consumers are enjoying reduced rates amounting to more than $170,000 a year. More than $6,000,000 is now being spent in extending rural electrification, and 25,000 more consumers in rural areas will benefit through the construction of 6,000 miles of additional transmission lines.

**AGRICULTURE**

New York State is not only a leading industrial empire. Its great cities and its giant industries have their counterpart in the expansive rural and farming sections that keep New York among the leaders in the agricultural states of this country. Governor Lehman has brought as much thought to bear upon the problems of agriculture and the farmer as he has to the difficulties of the workingman in the large cities. He has extended the facilities of rural education and has made more accessible the State program of Farm Education. He has fostered a scientific study of land classification to help the farmer raise those crops best suited to his soil. Several regional markets have been established, and hundreds of miles of farm-to-market roads have been constructed to make these markets available to the farms. The latest market news and services have been brought to the farmer. An intelligent program looking to flood control in a comprehensive manner, has been instituted. In short, Governor Lehman has done everything possible to place agriculture in a position favorably and intelligently to compete on even terms with industry and to give to the farmer and his family the same benefits that are enjoyed by the inhabitants of our large cities.

**REFORM IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Governor Lehman has strongly urged that government be made more responsive to the people. He has advocated and fought for the right of the people to initiate charter reforms through petition. He has tried on several
occasions to wrest from a hostile Republican Assembly reforms in obsolete county government, to the end that useless and overlapping departments might be eliminated. This reform would not only materially increase the efficiency of local government, but would result in so substantial an economy that the taxpayer would have a heavy load lifted from his shoulders.

NO PARTISAN POLITICS

Partisan advantage and political expediency have been kept out of Albany during Governor Lehman's administration. Not even the Republicans have been able to accuse the Governor of having been swayed in any of his decisions in order to favor party or to favor friend. He has steadfastly maintained that high standard of integrity and honor that has characterized all his actions in private as well as in public life.

NO SCANDAL

Governor Lehman has been the chief executive of this State for four years, and for the four years prior to that he served as Lieutenant-Governor. His Administration has been absolutely free from any breath of scandal and such a record deserves emphatic endorsement. Even the Republicans, at their State Convention found nothing to criticize in the Governor's record. The 7500 word keynote speech failed to mention one instance in which Governor Lehman had been found wanting. The platform adopted at that convention was similarly devoid of criticism of his official actions, and the acceptance speech of the Republican candidate for Governor was eloquent in its failure to bring out one instance in which Governor Lehman had not faithfully, earnestly and capably served all the people of the State of New York. Even the opposition is unable to find fault with Governor Lehman's record.

There are so many other good reasons to vote for the re-election of Governor Lehman that, in the interest of brevity, a few will be merely mentioned. Among them are the splendid record he has established as a "Civil Service Governor", his understanding consideration of the problems of the home-owner and the holder of mortgage certificates; his broad program of highway safety; the anti-crime program which has been characterized as the most comprehensive treatment of the subject in modern times, and although the Legislature fought his recommendations he was able to put through 39 of the 60 points he advocated.

Then, too, there is his program of reapportionment, of slum clearance and low-cost housing, of unemployment relief and his earnest efforts to spread the advantages of education into every home and farm of the State.

All in all, Governor Lehman's record is one to be proud of and one well worth fighting for. He is campaigning on that record. In his own words, "I stand on my record." Surely, the people of the State of New York stand behind him and that record.