Lehman’s New Study—A Birthday Surprise From His Wife

Sen. Herbert H. Lehman and Mrs. Lehman in his new study in their home at 820 Park Ave.

By B. J. Cutler

Sen. Herbert H. Lehman, D.-Lib., N. Y., who returned from Washington to his apartment at 820 Park Ave. to celebrate his seventy-fifth birthday yesterday, was surprised and delighted to find that his wife had built a new study in the apartment as a birthday gift. The study, a handsome green-papered room lined with books, was shown to a reporter and photographer by Mrs. Lehman, who had the happy air of a woman who had succeeded in keeping a secret from her husband after forty-three years of marriage. “The Senator has been in Washington most of the time since we started to work on the room in January,” Mrs. Lehman said. “When he was up here a few weeks ago, I kept the door closed and he never found out what was going on until I showed it to him when his birthday started at midnight.” Mrs. Lehman said that when close friends of the Sen-

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ator asked what they could send for his birthday, she suggested something for the study. Mrs. Lehman bought an old Georgian desk as the main piece of furniture in the room and the Senator's staff in Washington sent a pen-and-pencil set and a desk lamp for it.

Original cartoons by the late Rollin Kirby drawn while Mr. Lehman was Governor of New York from 1933 to 1942 were framed by Mrs. Lehman and hung on the walls. The bookshelves were filled with state budgets, bound volumes of Mr. Lehman's public papers as Governor and the reports of the state's 1937 Constitutional convention.

Mrs. Lehman pointed to four old Horatio Alger books, sent by the Senator's nieces, and said they were an especially prized gift since Mr. Lehman had been impressed as a boy by their philosophy.

Some friends had sent Sen. Lehman small china figures of boxer dogs. Mrs. Lehman said her husband "has a passion for boxers" and has a collection of china dogs in his Washington office. She said the Lehmans, in 1911, were the first to import boxers into this country and had helped establish the breed here.

Sen. Lehman joined the group and told the newspaper men, "I don't know how you heard about this study. It certainly was a surprise to me. I had no idea what was going on."

Asked if he had a message for young people from the vantage point of seventy-five years, Sen. Lehman thought for a moment, and said:

"I think the people get just about the kind of government to which they are entitled. If they are interested in government affairs, and watch the records of public officials, and reward the good ones and punish the others, then their government is good."

"If the people are indifferent to what is going on in their communities, states and nation, in all probability they will get inefficient government, if not worse."

"For this reason, I have been urging young people to take an interest in their government and I'm happy to see that they have been doing so."

The Lehmans celebrated the Senator's birthday quietly at home yesterday, receiving visits from members of the family and old friends. A former partner in the investment banking firm of Lehman Bros., 1 William St., the Senator was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1928 and 1930; served as Governor from 1933 to 1942; headed the U. N. Relief and Rehabilitation Administration from 1942 to 1946, and was elected to the Senate in 1949 and 1950.