SOME GOALS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

The 94th Street and Park Avenue Armory site for new JHS No. 29 (the education of our children is more important than the stabling of polo ponies) . . . . Better racial balance and higher educational standards throughout City schools . . . Consolidation of building inspection services (a tenant now calls one inspector from Health Department for lack of heat and a second inspector from Buildings Department for lack of hot water) . . . . One telephone number to report all housing complaints . . . . start construction of middle-income cooperative on site of JHS No. 30, 88th Street between Third and Lexington Avenues . . . A winning season for the METS!

RESULTS OF READER SURVEY

Almost 25% of the readers of this "Report" returned the postcard questionnaire sent out with the October issue. Results:

- Off-Track Betting favored 3 to 1
- Fluoridation favored 7 to 2
- City Finance Study favored 20 to 1

City voters favored Off-Track Betting by nearly 3 to 1; the Council adopted Fluoridation 19 to 4 and the City Finance Study by 24 to 1. Our readers are right on the beam!

URGE ROCKEFELLER TO RELEASE FUNDS FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSING

The need for additional middle and low-income housing continues to be extremely grave.

Yet, $66 million of State funds for low-rent public housing are being unreasonably and arbitrarily withheld by the State.

A resolution I introduced in the Council last month calls upon Governor Rockefeller to direct the release of these funds, which could provide up to 3400 units in the State and perhaps half that number for the City.

The New York Post in an editorial said:

"Albany, flinging up a handsome array of statistics, counters that more than $75 million has been allocated to the city since Mr. Rockefeller took office. Low and his impressive backline of authorities confess themselves mystified by this figure.

"One uncontestable fact emerges from this paper battle: only 427 new low-rent apartments have been granted the metropolitan area since 1960 in striking contrast to the annual average of 2,500 in each of the preceding seven years.

"Low's bill . . . has been referred to the Committee on Housing. Perhaps that group, headed by Low, can clear the statistical air and produce concrete results."

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR READERS - THE LOWS

Frances and Bob; Roger, "Billy" & Allen
A meeting to honor the memories of President Kennedy and Governor Herbert H. Lehman was sponsored by the Lexington Democratic Club in December.

Among those addressing the Club were Playwright Dore Schary, Professor James MacGregor Burns, former Governor Charles Polletti, Julius C. C. Edelstein, Irving M. Engel and myself.

Excerpts from my remarks on this occasion follow:

"...Historians will no doubt look to President Kennedy's inaugural address or some other act of his term in the White House as his finest hour. But my vivid impression is in another area -- the down-to-earth job of getting elected to the presidency.

"I remember one fall afternoon joining his campaign party in the Niagara Falls area and traveling across the State to Rochester. There was nothing easy that day: the then Senator was out getting the votes, shaking hands, making that familiar short statement about the urgency of moving America forward again. Jack Kennedy was going into the towns and the villages of America to reach the hearts and the minds -- of the people of America so that he could assume the leadership of our great country.

"In his willingness to campaign in this way, he has left us an important legacy. It is that if a man with his cultural and educational background--and his high intellect--aspires to the Presidency in future generations, he must be willing to take on the hard work of shaking hands and campaigning along the roads and highways of our country as President Kennedy did. Only through this tough ordeal can any man bring these qualities to the office of the Presidency.

"...I had the good fortune to know Herbert Lehman as a family friend, as well as a public figure... I knew him as a kindly, warm and even gentle human being whose first interest was always in someone else's problems....

"To positions of honor and grave responsibility over a span of some thirty years, Governor Lehman brought that responsive sense of humor and interest in his fellowman that guided him in his personal life. To Herbert Lehman these were not positions to be sought for the honor that they brought him and his family, but rather they were positions to be sought to carry on the fight for justice and equality for his fellow man.

"Behind the office was the man of deep faith. Perhaps no public figure in our generation, nor in the history books of our Nation, so completely served the ancient prophet's admonition to man -- 'to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God.'

"From this well of faith came an unending outpouring of help for others -- more often than not unpublicized. How many refugees from Nazi torture were assisted? How many of Senator McCarthy's targets were helped quietly by Herbert Lehman? How many little people everywhere benefitted from the full and loving heart of this man? Perhaps, not even his dear wife, Edith, will ever know.

"We meet here this evening to try to do him honor. The least those of us who seriously wish to honor his memory can do is to rededicate ourselves to his last great cause--political reform--and to the battles for equality and justice to which he devoted his life.

"In our deeds tomorrow, not in our words tonight -- no matter how eloquent they may be -- we will honor Herbert Lehman."

For additional copies of this "Report" write: Robert A. Low 527 East 84th Street New York 28, N. Y.