Senator Herbert H. Lehman  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Lehman:

Enclosed is a resolution on social security, which I have prepared. After you have an opportunity to study the contents, I hope you will join me in introducing it.

As you know, some of the aged are covered by the present social security legislation; others would be included, of course, if H. R. 6000 were passed. As you also know, other aged and disabled are taken care of by a combination of Federal-State aids. You undoubtedly have also seen the recent report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics to the effect that there are presently over 13,000 pension plans managed by private industry. Obviously, of course, the cost of this crazy quilt pattern of old age assistance, is borne by all of the American people in the form of hidden sales tax. For example, when a farmer buys a corn planter, a plow, or a seeder, he is paying, not only for part of the $100 a month pension plan recently adopted in the steel industry, but also paying for part of the cost of the social security system, the Federal-State aids, the 13,000 private pension plans, plus the overhead of the administration thereof.

The result of our present chaotic and haphazard approach to this problem is that all Americans are paying, but only special groups are receiving benefits. I think the time has come for an all-inclusive federal pension system which will bring order out of this confusion, and provide a pension at 65 for every American. The exact form which such a pension should take can best be worked out by the Senate Finance Committee with appropriate technical assistance. The enclosed resolution is designed to provide for a thorough study by that Committee directed along the lines indicated therein.
I am asking a number of Senators from both sides of the aisle to join me on this resolution and would very greatly appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience as to whether you would care to be a co-sponsor.

Sincerely yours,

JOE McCARTHY

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