April 14, 1952

Dear Senator Lehman:

I took care in my article to distinguish between the issues in the McCollum case and those involved in the New York Law. But I am of the opinion that the New York Law depends as much upon the discipline and impetus of the public schools as the Champaign program and is therefore unconstitutional.

The time has come when we shall have to expand rather than limit the meaning of the separation of Church and State. If the Supreme Court should decide that the New York program is constitutional, it will give a lot of us an incredible amount of work to fight legislation similar to the New York Law in other States. We shall have to do this because our clerical authoritarians will immediately push for more such legislation and also for more and more time that belongs to the public school system. For these programs do not stand still. Either they are eliminated or they grow. If they grow, they will undermine both the curriculum and the discipline of the public school system. And anything that hurts the public schools, I am bound to oppose.

Thank you very much for your letter.

Yours sincerely,

Eugene Meyer

(Mrs. Eugene Meyer)

The Honorable Herbert H. Lehman
The United States Senate
Washington
D.C.