The Honorable Herbert H. Lehman  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Senator Lehman:

This is in reply to your communication of January 23, 1956, to which was attached a letter dated January 14, 1956, from Mr. Alfred Cavallaro, President, New York State Independent Union of Production, Maintenance and Service Employees, Local 3—N.I.U.C., Brooklyn, New York. Mr. Cavallaro's letter urges representation of the independent unions on the Department of Labor Advisory Committee.

The matter of independent union representation on labor advisory committees is one which is always difficult. I have given it careful consideration.

Weighing all the factors, I have concluded that in this case I would obtain better advice from my Committee if it consisted only of those national unions which could work together most harmoniously on such a body.

I have always been willing to listen to the views of the unaffiliated and independent unions who represent wage earners. But I think you will appreciate that it is impossible to provide representation to all unions or even all groups of unions on a small advisory committee. The utility of such an advisory committee could be seriously impaired if its size was not confined to the reasonable limits now existing.

You may be assured that I will continue to receive and consider the advice given to me by any legitimate representative of working people, regardless of the size of the organization.

Sincerely yours,

James P. Mitchell  
Secretary of Labor