January 25, 1939

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

I have long been of the opinion that the effective administration of parole in all jurisdictions would promote our national well being and for that reason I have recently been concerned to observe widespread misconceptions of the true nature and purpose of parole on the part of the public.

This suggests the calling of a National Parole Conference in Washington, D.C. as a means of presenting the facts about parole, reaching agreement as to desirable standards and procedures in its administration, and pointing the way to closer cooperation between the Federal Government and the governments of the several states.

I shall appreciate it if you will make the necessary arrangements to take charge of such a conference to be held during the middle of April, 1939. I am sure that a large number of our citizens as well as legislators, public officials, the judiciary, members of the bar, police authorities, and prison and parole administrators will welcome an opportunity to discuss the many difficult aspects of parole administration and I believe that the findings of the Attorney General's Survey of Release Procedures, which is about to be published, will provide an excellent basis for such a discussion.

I shall be glad to give my support to such an undertaking and to discuss the details with you at a convenient time.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT