Dear Governor and Mrs. Lehman:

The wonderful news of your appointment as Relief Administrator reached Camp Lee this morning, and in this place of my temporary exile I have no one close to me with whom to rejoice. At first I was tempted, in sheer exhilaration of spirit, to telephone to you, wishing you every good fortune and success in the most constructive and positive task of the entire war. But then I reconsidered, remembering that you are probably being bombarded constantly today by friends from all over the country, and I am writing instead.

No job the President might have picked for you is more suited to your long experience and unusual administrative ability. Nor could any job I can think of give you more satisfaction because, even despising these dismal, aching days you will be bringing help and joy to millions of human beings throughout the world. The other day I read Henry Adams' description of Albert Gallatin: "... a mind for which no principle was too broad and no detail too delicate..." I thought then that these qualities, so rarely united in one person, are qualities which you possess in a unique degree. Qualities which Mark Twain pointed out to me when I first came to Albany. I know how well they have served the state, and I am overjoyed that they will now help to resurrect a sick world.
I have not had a chance, of course, to write to Hinda about the appointment, but I know that she joins me in wishing both of you the greatest joy.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice.

I want to thank you for the very fine picture which you were good enough to send to me. I am doubly grateful for your generous inscription.

I have been thinking and thinking all morning about your appointment. What superb and just irony that you shall be feeding the people of Germany soon!

Maurice