PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

August 20, 1936

Honorable Herbert H. Lehman
The Capitol
Albany, N. Y.

My dear Governor Lehman:

Last week while I was visiting in the Thousand Islands, a group discussed the coming campaign and its probable outcome. None of them is in politics, but some have had experience. All were men of affairs. The view was expressed that the Republicans would fail to nominate an outstanding man for Governor, that is to say, one who would make a strong appeal to the independent voters. Like view was expressed in regard to the nomination for Lieutenant-Governor on the Democratic side.

In relation to the latter nomination, the group discussed possible nominees who would fill the bill, and the result was a unanimous belief that the Senator from the Albany district, Ross, would be the strongest man for you to have on the ticket with you. The discussion, of course, had no political significance. All who were present know New York State intimately. It may be that they overlooked some person who may be equally promising, or even more so.

The reasons given for the view concerning Ross were: geographically correct; that Ross has served one or more terms in the State Senate; is familiar with its customs and rules; apparently well liked by his associates; was a battle soldier with a fine record which has not been ballyhooed; would have the support of independents because of his standing and personality; probably the active support of the 27th Division veterans and the American Legion.

I pass the foregoing to you for your information and consideration. Frankly, if you prefer some other running mate, I think under existing conditions it is your right to name the man. If you have no preference and think Ross would add strength to the ticket, it should not be difficult to bring him into service and organize support.

I am not as optimistic about the outcome of the election as the political people profess to be. I mean by this that while I think we should win I would not be surprised if the vote were very close in this State. Therefore,
2. Governor Lehman

every candidate on the State ticket should be carefully selected and with the object of winning the independent vote, which after all determines the outcome of most elections.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

John F. O’Ryan

MFD