Hon. Harry S. Truman,
President of the United States
Washington, D. C.

August 18, 1951

Dear Mr. President:

In two of your recent speeches reported in the press
you have expressed your concern with the growth of hysteria
which is threatening the basic civil liberties of the people
of this nation. I more than share your concern.

However, in an editorial which appeared in Nation the
point was made that you, by certain actions, have aided and
abetted this rise of McCarthyism. I agree with the writer of
the editorial.

The editorial makes mention of your initiating the so-
called loyalty program and your instructing the Attorney-
General to prepare a list of "subversive" organizations. The
Supreme Court of United States has frowned on this listing but
nothing has been done, as far as I can learn, to stop the
practice.

Recently, through the Department of Justice, mockery has
been made of the Constitutional provisions on bail. This is
just an extension of the previously made limitations on the
guarantees contained in the first ten Amendments to our
Constitutions, which we proudly call our Bill of Rights.

If Thomas Jefferson were living today I am sure he would
raise his voice against the abridging of personal freedoms, just
as he did in the days of the Alien and Sedition Acts. The
denial of rights to one becomes the concern of us all.

Mr. President, if you want to put a stop to the growing
hysteria which threatens the very democracy in our Nation I
urge you to end the loyalty program, the listing of "subver-
sive" organizations and order the Department of Justice to
follow the spirit of the Bill of Rights. In practice these
have served as bills of attainder, a wrong long denounced.

An integral part of our traditions is that a person is
innocent until proved guilty and is to be punished by the
proof of wrongdoing. We certainly have laws enough to punish
malignants. But the power of government must not be used to
punish people on inferences, innuendoes or mere suspicion.
Such conduct only aids the McCarthys and stirs up more hysteria.

I urge you to restore our Declaration of Independence and
the Bill of Rights to their original purpose and meaning.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]