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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
 RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

June ..., 1953

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Dear ...:

In response to your letter, let me observe that 18 Republican members of the Senate, including the Majority Leader, Senator Taft, sponsored the bill to permit the entry of 240,000 refugees, escapees and expellees over a period of two years, which shall include wives and children. The bill has been carefully drawn to include Greeks, Italians, Germans, Dutch, and a certain number generally from the NATO countries.

The sponsors, including myself, are of the opinion after getting the benefit of the President's viewpoint that it will prove to be a psychological weapon of great value at this particular time and should also prove effective in modifying the feeling of hostility that has developed over a period of time.

I feel reasonably certain that the benefits will far outweigh whatever disadvantages might appear to result from this measure and have for that reason joined in its sponsorship.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

WILLIAM LANGER, N. DAK., CHAIRMAN
ALEXANDER WILEY, WIS.
WILLIAM E. JENNER, IND.
ARTHUR V. WATKINS, UTAH
ROBERT C. HENDRICKSON, N. J.
EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN, ILL.
HERMAN WELKER, IDAHO
JOHN MARSHALL BUTLER, MD.

PAT MCCARRAN, NEV.
HARLEY M. KILGORE, W. VA.
JAMES O. EASTLAND, MISS.
ESTES KEFAUVER, TENN.
WILLIS SMITH, N. C.
OLIN D. JOHNSTON, S. C.
THOMAS C. HENNINGS, JR., MO.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

June ..., 1953

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Dear ...:

May I say in response to your communication that the President feels very deeply with reference to the bill which was introduced to admit 240,000 persons over a two year period into the United States for purposes of permanent residence suitably screened, of course, to make sure that we do not receive undesirable additions to our citizenship.

This is regarded as a psychological weapon at a very critical time, and after going into the matter with a number of my colleagues I felt quite justified in joining in this effort.

You may have observed that the bill was sponsored by eighteen Republican senators, including Senator Taft, and I am certain from my conversations with other members of the Senate that many more would have joined in this endeavor if their sponsorship had been solicited.

I am confident that in due course when hearings are held on this bill that it will be fully justified by the circumstances which prompted its introduction.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

[Immigration]

For & Against S. 1917
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WILLIAM LANGER, N. DAK., CHAIRMAN	
ALEXANDER WILEY, WIS.	PAT MCCARRAN, NEV.
WILLIAM E. JENNER, IND.	HARLEY M. KILGORE, W. VA.
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HERMAN WELKER, IDAHO	OLIN D. JOHNSTON, S. C.
JOHN MARSHALL BUTLER, MD.	THOMAS C. HENNING, JR., MO.

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

June 24, 1953

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Dear ...:

I appreciate your viewpoint with respect to Senate 1917, which for a two year period would admit 240,000 aliens from selected groups and countries, including men, women and children.

First, let me say that this is the last request that will be made to override the quota provisions of the McCarran-Walter Act. Secondly, let me say that the migrant problem in Europe is still an explosive pressure and a solution is being sought which is fair and equitable to all countries.

I note from the figures made available by the Inter-Governmental Committee on Immigration that other countries are proportionately doing as much, if not more, and I am of the opinion since this is assuredly the last request in this field that we should do our full share in the hope that the pressure can be relieved.

On one point you can be certain and that is that the measure if enacted will be carefully safeguarded against undesirables.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

WILLIAM LANGER, N. DAK., CHAIRMAN
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THOMAS C. HENNINGS, JR., MO.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

July ..., 1953

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Dear ...:

A good many of my friends have admonished me about S. 1917, but I have a conviction that this proposal will be an effective weapon in the hands of the President in connection with foreign polocias, and under those circumstances I cannot permit my personal political welfare to stand in the way of what I regard as a constructive and important policy.

I appreciate your candor, but I would be less than honest with myself if I failed to assist in bringing about the enactment of this measure, notwithstanding the spirited opposition which has developed.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen