

Everett McKinley Dirksen  
Illinois

United States Senate  
Minority Leader

Lausche Amendment

Foreign Aid Amendment

June 18, 1962

Dear :

When Senator Lausche's Amendment to cut off all aid to Communist dominated countries was under consideration in the Senate, even those senators who cooperated in preparing the amendment were concerned over the fact that it went too far in tying the hands of the President in the use of surplus farm commodities in countries where there was at least some chance of reorienting them away from the Soviet Union and from the international Communist movement.

Almost before the Lausche Amendment was adopted it was suggested that a second amendment be offered which would modify the Lausche Amendment to the extent that surplus foods might be used under certain circumstances for this purpose. Such an amendment, of course, would have the two-fold effect of disposing of our enormous commodity surplus -- some of which is already in a deteriorated state -- and giving the President at least one weapon in meeting the Soviet challenge.

This same authority was granted to President Eisenhower and was in fact carried in the aid bills since 1954. The new amendment was, I believe, thoroughly nailed down because commodities could be used only where our national security was involved, where the recipient country was not participating directly or indirectly in a program or policy for the Communist conquest of the world, and the recipient country was not controlled by any country promoting such conquest. In addition the President was required to first notify the appropriate committees of the Congress of his intention to use commodities in such cases, subject, of course, to the exceptions written into the amendment.

The fact that by a vote of 56 to 34 the Senate adopted this amendment and that it was supported by five of the six Republican members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee speaks for itself.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen