



United States Senate

RESERVE ROBO

December 16, 1964

Dear -----:

This will acknowledge receipt of your recent communication concerning the proposal of the Department of Defense for merging the Army and Air Force Reserves with the National Guard and the Air National Guard.

This plan was discussed with the leadership of both the House and Senate and I am therefore reasonably familiar with what is being proposed. It is my understanding there is ample administrative authority in existing law to make such a consolidation to effectuate economies if it can be accomplished without weakening or lessening our security position.

However, the Honorable John Stennis, Chairman of the Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, has announced that early in the first session of the 89th Congress his subcommittee will conduct extensive hearings into all aspects of the reserve programs of the three military departments. In addition to this, other members of the Armed Services Committee have expressly requested that no plans be carried out for merging these forces until such time as any plan of this nature may be submitted to and heard by the Senate Armed Services Committee. It is the feeling of many members of the committee that any such action by the Department of Defense, if taken, would constitute a basic alteration in the Defense set-up and for that reason would require Congressional action.

In view of the foregoing facts, I think I can assure you that the whole matter will be rather thoroughly ventilated during the coming weeks and will certainly have my continued attention.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen