

[1964]

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Illinois

United States Senate
Minority Leader

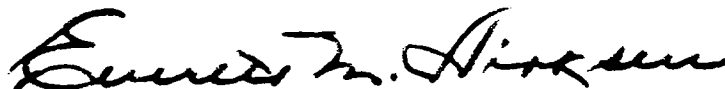
Dear Friend:

Thank you for your communication relating to the pending civil rights bill. This measure, if enacted in the form as it passed the House of Representatives, will have a tremendous impact upon the way of life of this country. If there were no other reason, that would be enough to justify the thorough consideration to which this measure is entitled.

It contains so many imperfections and ambiguities that I hope before we get through in the Senate we can rework this measure to keep it within due bounds and also make it conform to our constitutional concepts of the rights of all citizens and not merely a segment of our citizenship.

I do appreciate your interest.

Sincerely,



Everett McKinley Dirksen

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Illinois

Edna

United States Senate
Minority Leader

CIVIL RIGHTS ROBO
, 1964

Dear :

Thank you for giving me the benefit of your views regarding the civil rights bill now before the Senate.

It has been my purpose to attempt to bring about improvements and modifications in the House-approved measure, which will make it fair, workable, practicable and equitable. To this end, I have introduced amendments to Titles II and VII and have co-sponsored with the Majority Leader an amendment to the jury trial provisions of the bill.

We will continue to work at it, with the hope that when we have finally completed debate we will have fashioned a bill which will effectively apply itself to the problems in this critical area of our national life.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Illinois

Edna

United States Senate
Minority Leader

CIVIL RIGHTS

February 20, 1964

Dear :

From the day I first voted for a bill in the House of Representatives to outlaw the imposition of poll taxes as a requirement for voting — more than twenty-five years ago — the civil rights problem has been a challenging matter in the Congress, as well as the country. Today it is before us again in the form of an overall administration proposal, together with alternative measures such as I have introduced.

The House version of the Civil Rights Bill has at long last been messaged to the Senate and is ready for consideration whenever the Majority Leader of the Senate is prepared to call it up for consideration.

The new version contains many modifications from the proposals first submitted and many of its provisions are far more satisfactory than those contained in the original version.

Title II, dealing with public facilities and accommodations, and that Title dealing with Fair Employment Practices are, of course, quite controversial and I am certain that these and, in fact every other title of the bill will have thoroughgoing and unihibited consideration by the Senate.

I propose to reserve ultimate judgment until the bill is in final form for approval or disapproval by the Senate.

You can be assured it will have most earnest consideration.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Illinois

Edna

United States Senate
Minority Leader

CIVIL RIGHTS ROBO

March 4, 1964

Dear :

Thank you for your communication relating to the pending civil rights bill. This measure, if enacted in the form as it passed the House of Representatives, will have a tremendous impact upon the way of life of this country. If there were no other reason, that would be enough to justify the thorough consideration to which this measure is entitled.

It contains so many imperfections and ambiguities that I hope before we get through in the Senate we can rework this measure to keep it within due bounds and also make it conform to our constitutional concepts of the rights of all citizens and not merely a segment of our citizenship.

I do appreciate your interest.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

Edna

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Illinois

United States Senate
Minority Leader

TITLE VII - CIVIL RIGHTS ROBO

March 25, 1964

Dear -----:

I appreciate the views which you expressed on the civil rights bill now pending in the Senate and particularly Title VII.

I am frank to say that in its present form the broad powers delegated to the Government in this Title have become a matter of genuine concern and that concern has not been diminished by the experience of the Motorola Corporation in Illinois with the State Fair Employment Commission.

I am enclosing a reproduction of Title VII as it appears in the House bill and hope you can find time to discuss this with your legal staff for a study because the effects on business and industry will be incalculable.

I shall be glad to have any suggestions you care to make.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Illinois

Edna

United States Senate
Minority Leader

Title VII - Civil Rights

April 21, 1964

Dear :

Title VII of the Civil Rights bill has been a subject of particular study with me and I have sought advice in every quarter in the hope that this Title could be modified to make it fair, equitable and workable. On April 16 I submitted ten amendments to that one Title, all of which I believe have merit and will make it infinitely more practicable in its impact on the country.

I may submit one or two more amendments, one of which is particularly controversial, and that is to save for our states primary and exclusive jurisdiction over civil rights grievances for at least a certain period of time before the Federal Commission can move in and assume jurisdiction.

I have devoted myself to the perfecting process before it is too late and time runs out on this particular Title of the bill. The enclosed statement, including provisions of my amendments, may be of interest to you.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

Enclosure

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Illinois

Edna

United States Senate
Minority Leader

TITLE VII

May 20, 1964

Dear :

Title VII of the Civil Rights Bill has been a subject of particular study with me and I have sought advice in every quarter in the hope that this Title could be modified to make it fair, equitable and workable. I am frank to say that in its present form the broad powers delegated to a government agency in this Title have become a matter of genuine concern to me.

I have submitted amendments to Title VII which I believe have merit and which I feel will make it infinitely more practicable in its impact on the country.

I am glad to have your views on this matter and appreciate your thoughtfulness in making them available to me.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

Edna



United States Senate

EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN
ILLINOIS

MINORITY LEADER

COMPLIMENTARY CIVIL RIGHTS

June 18, 1964

Dear -----:

Thank you for your gracious and encouraging words. You
are indeed very generous.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen



Edna

United States Senate

EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN
ILLINOIS

MINORITY LEADER

CRITICAL CIVIL RIGHTS

June 19, 1964

Dear :

Per haps the best answer I can make is to attach a copy of remarks I made to the Senate as the final speech on the cloture petition. This sets out my thinking as a Senator, as a Republican, and as a citizen.

I hope you do me the honor of reading this rather carefully.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

Enclosure