April 19, 1952

... ...

Dear ...

This will acknowledge your recent communication with respect to the Johnson-Case bill (S. 2444) and the serving of alcoholic beverages in military camps.

At the present time, hard liquors are not advertised on radio and television nor does it appear likely that these facilities will accept advertisers of this nature.

In the matter of beer, however, it is doubtful that the Congress should draw an arbitrary line by imposing legislative restrictions of this character.

While I share the feeling that certain administrators in this field have been going beyond the limits of good taste, the problem could be solved by the Federal Communications Commission through a series of conferences and understandings with the industry.

The measure which established the National Security Training Corps for universal military training prohibits the sale, consumption, possession of or traffic in alcoholic beverages by members of the corps where such beverages contain in excess of one per centum of alcohol.

In respect of members of the Armed Forces, first let me say that it is the policy of the Defense Department by means of courses and programs in character guidance to urge and encourage abstinence and moderation in the use of alcoholic beverages and to punish all cases of over-indulgence. On the other hand the Defense establishment does point out that it seeks not to discriminate against members of the Armed Forces to a degree that would deny them of their rights and privileges enjoyed by other citizens.

I feel that in the main our leaders in this field make every genuine endeavor to encourage temperance.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen