March ., 1952

Dear . . .:

I am giving careful consideration to the pending proposal for the so-called Universal Military Training program. While my mind is open, my inclinations are to oppose the bill in its present form.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
March .., 1952

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Dear ...:

When the preliminary legislation covering universal military training came before the Senate during the last session in combination with amendments to the Selective Service Act, I voted against this proposal on the ground that it was too sketchy, that it represented an odd combination of temporary and permanent legislation, and that the details of the so-called military training program were delegated to a training commission instead of being recited in the law.

I can assure you that when this matter comes on for further action in 1952 it will have the same careful scrutiny before I pass judgment on this proposal.

I appreciate and respect the viewpoint which you express.

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March .., 1952

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Dear ...:

I appreciate your communication with respect to the proposal for universal military training.

I can only say that if and when it should come on for action in the Senate I shall try to be fortified with a conviction based upon all the facts and implications that are involved in a proposal of this kind and let conviction dictate my vote.

It does appear, however, that the matter is unlikely to be reconsidered at the present session in view of the fact that only recently the House of Representatives by a margin of seventy-four votes recommitted this bill to the Armed Services Committee.

I am grateful for your viewpoint.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen