March . ., 1953

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Dear . . .:

It would seem that our first job is to get our books in balance and then proceed to the business of cutting taxes.

Taking the budget submitted by the outgoing administration as a basis, it would require a reduction of ten billion dollars in proposed expenditure to show a balance. That is no small task but I for one am clearly willing to make every endeavor to bring it about because tax reduction should start at that point.

I share your feeling concerning a reduction in taxes but do believe that it might be deemed unwise to cut taxes at the same moment that the Federal Government was borrowing money and paying interest thereon in order to meet current bills.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
May..., 1953

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... 

Dear ...:

The Appropriations Committee of the House and Senate are presently working on appropriation bills and on a revised budget and before long we should have a reasonably adequate idea of what the spending and appropriation picture will be for the next fiscal year.

It does seem to me that if the present Congress will devote itself to the task it can do a job comparable to that accomplished in 1947 and 1948 when the 80th Republican Congress was in power and balanced the budget, reduced taxes, and also placed 3 billion dollars in escrow to be used in the following year for foreign aid. All it takes is the will and the fortitude to do so. I am not only willing to achieve this result but will leave no stone unturned in its accomplishment.

I can fully appreciate the interest expressed in your recent communication.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen