July ..., 1953

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Dear ...:

I do appreciate your recent communication expressing your viewpoint with respect to increased postal rates.

Let me point out that the annual deficit of the Post Office Department has jumped steadily from about $270,000,000 in 1945 to an estimated deficit for the next fiscal year of $596,000,000.

This type of a fiscal operation not only impairs morale but also contributes to an unbalanced budget and deters tax reduction for which there is such a broad public clamor.

Now there is a choice of continuing in this fashion or of setting our house in order so that after all economies have been made and costs properly allocated, the postal rates for various classes of mail will reflect the cost of the service and make the Department self-sustaining.

I know this approach is not always popular but it is, after all, the only sound policy which would put the Department on an efficient basis and improve morale and service. I am anxious that the new Postmaster General, who is a good business man, have every reasonable opportunity to get this job done, and it is his considered judgment that some increase in rates all along the line will be necessary. He has a huge task in taking a Department which was well run down and putting it back on a basis which will make every citizen proud of our mail service.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen