February ..., 1954

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Dear ...:

Let me acknowledge your letter and your comment on the President's proposal for a modification of the farm program.

I have given considerable time and study to his proposal and have sought to evaluate it against the background of twelve years of service on the Agricultural Appropriations Committee in the House of Representatives.

I believe there is a genuine fear that unless a durable long range program can be developed which is more nearly geared to the basic principles of supply and demand that there is real danger of a complete breakdown in the farm program and some real hostility on the part of other segment of our economy. I believe that farm organizations which have devoted so much time and study to the problem share this feeling.

The committees of Congress are already engaged in taking the objectives and goals suggested by the President and translating them into terms of legislation. I am confident that we can work out a program that will bring about gradual transition to a new basis which should prove both satisfactory, equitable and durable.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen