February ..., 1954

Dear ...:

In response to your note protesting an increase in the first class non-local postage rate, it must be admitted that first class mail is the only one which pays its way. It is, however, the most important service in the postal scheme and probably must be considered as a component in an overall operation which for so many years has operated at a loss.

I am fully mindful that there must be increases in those classes of mail where losses have been consistently sustained and the proposal made by the Postmaster General to develop an additional 240 million in revenues does include increases in every class in order to reduce the deficit and move steadily toward the goal of a self-paying operation for the entire Department.

Having examined into the matter rather carefully, I am disposed to support the program in the hope that at long last the postal deficit can either be wiped out entirely or reduced to a very reasonable amount.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen