February ..., 1954

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Dear ...:

Last year I opposed the St. Lawrence Seaway project because it was intermingled with power development and carried authorizations for extremely large expenditures.

The new bill which was considered in the present session dealt only with navigation and was substantially streamlined and reduced to the point where 105 million dollars was made available to the Seaway Development Corporation on the basis that this would become self-liquidating and would pay itself out from rates and charges. This self-liquidation aspect is expected to include not only the capital investment but all maintenance and operational charges.

The national defense aspects of the problem are, in my judgment, rather important and I was inclined to rely upon our National Security Council, the Defense establishment and the Chiefs of Staff, whose business it is to evaluate matters of this kind in terms of national security. This was one of the impelling reasons for voting for the Seaway.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen