Dear Friend:

Now and then a current editorial which is well reasoned and completely objective so well sets forth the case on an issue like that involved in the pending Natural Gas Bill that it expresses as well if not better than I can set it out in a letter, the whole story, and I am therefore attaching a copy of that editorial. It appeared in the Chicago Sun Times on Monday, January 23, and is well worth examination as a summation of the whole case.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

Enclosure
Dear:

Now and then a current editorial which is well reasoned and completely objective so well sets forth the case on an issue like that involved in the pending Natural Gas Bill that it expresses as well if not better than I can set it out in a letter, the whole story, and I am therefore attaching a copy of that editorial. It appeared in the Chicago Sun Times on Monday, January 23, and is well worth examination as a summation of the whole case.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

Enclosure
Dear :

In 1938 when Congress enacted the Natural Gas Bill it was my belief and the belief of other members also that this measure excluded gas producers from federal regulation and control on the ground that every incentive for increased gas production should be preserved in the face of increasing consumption wherever natural gas was available. I still feel that that was the firm intent of Congress and that the interpretation of the Supreme Court in the so-called Phillips case, therefore, calls for a legislative remedy to make clear what Congress originally intended.

Based upon my examination of all the facts that have come to my attention, I believe it is in the interest of all groups in the country that the Senate approve the Fulbright Bill. I might add that Governor Stratton also made an examination of this matter and has presented testimony to the Senate Committee in favor of the bill. I shall, of course, examine other arguments and data that may be adduced but thus far I am inclined to look upon this measure with favor.

I do appreciate your letter.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Dear:

This will acknowledge your communication in support of the Natural Gas Bill. As you may have already noted from press reports, I supported this proposal when it was finally voted on by the Senate.

I do appreciate your comments.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Dear:

On May 18, 1955, I appeared before the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of the Senate in open hearing and testified in support of the so-called Fulbright Natural Gas Bill. This was an open hearing attended by both press and public, and I know that the news dispatches noted my support of the measure.

That was more than eight months before the bill reached the Senate floor for long debate and for a vote. Incidentally, I might add that I was one of only four senators who appeared and testified before the committee so long ago.

In my remarks to the committee and on the Senate Floor, I indicated that the bill had the support of the Governor of Illinois, of city councils and chambers of commerce and other groups in the state. All this was placed in the record and in addition thereto I discussed the Natural Gas Bill as much as two years ago on radio and television programs which rather effectively covered the state of Illinois. Perhaps I should add that since that time the bill has had broad support from all of the Chicago papers and from quite a number in the downstate area.

When I testified more than eight months ago I was persuaded after an examination of the issue that this was sound and desirable legislation. I still believe so. Consequently my vote on the bill was predicated on a clear statement of my views made so many months ago so that it could have come to the attention of all interested persons. This is the whole story.

I am enclosing two statements from Chicago papers which well summarize the issues involved. I do appreciate your continuing interest.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

Enclosures