... 1959

... 

... 

Dear ...:

In the 1930s when farm prices hit bottom the Agricultural Adjustment Program was launched and the basic theme was to improve farm prices by curtailing production, providing price floors, stimulating consumption and increasing exports of farm commodities. What this was designed to do was to bring about a balance between supply and demand so that these basic laws in the marketplace could operate to improve the price structure.

That was twenty-five years ago and since then variations of one kind or another have been tried. All this time there were improvements in the techniques of production, with the result that most of our efforts have been nullified and we are left with high production, high productivity and a huge surplus.

Secretary Benson in devoting himself to a solution has, in my judgment, gone to the heart of the matter by seeking to reduce the level of price supports and restoring greater freedom to farmers and greater freedom for the general interplay of market forces.

Congress, however, has not always shared his views and the result is a stalemate at the moment with no immediate program before us to meet this problem. It must be met and I earnestly hope that the appropriate committees of both House and Senate and the Department of Agriculture can be brought into the picture to cooperate on a sane, sensible program which takes into account the interests of all groups in our country, including consumers as well as producers.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen