Dear:

Unfortunately newspapers do not always have enough space to present the complete story on a project like the San Luis irrigation project in California, about which you took some exception to my vote some days ago.

Let me, therefore, summarize the whole story as best I can in this fashion to indicate the argument in support of this proposal.

The project was approved by the Senate in 1958 but did not reach the House in time for action.

It was carefully explored from the economic and engineering standpoints and had the approval of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Interior.

It was approved by the Budget Bureau as within the budget estimates and, therefore, had administration approval.

It involves no new acreage because virtually all of this land has been in cultivation for a number of years. This acreage cannot be devoted to crops which receive price supports under existing law.

The power and water elements are to be repaid by the users.

The whole project is on a partnership basis between the United States and the State of California.

Population growth in the western areas and the expected growth in the future does require that federal agencies look down the road and assess the needs of this area as well as other sections of the country, if it expects to be fair and equitable to all parts of the nation. This, in brief, is the rest of the story.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen