February 28, 1959

Within the last few days controversy over the Des Plaines Wildlife Area has taken on new interest.

The delegation from Joliet, including some labor leaders, have pointed out that the tract in question is the only part of the government's holdings in that area suitable for industrial development and that perchance an equal amount of terrain now in the possession of the Army might be made available for wildlife purposes. I have already contacted the Secretary of the Army and expect to have a session with the Administrator of the General Services Administration within the next few days.

In addition I should point out that the Director of Conservation for the State of Illinois did indicate a good many months back that a part of the area in question might be properly used for industrial purposes, and all of this information is now in the possession of the General Services Administration.

I do hope we can contrive a solution which is at once agreeable and fair to all parties in interest.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen