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United States Senate
Minority Leader

ROBO: Senate 11 - Robinson-Patman
April 22, 1959

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Dear ....:

I have been and still am opposed to the enactment of Senate 11--still pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee--because I believe that it denies to any business, whether large or small, the right in good faith to meet competition by lowering a price to keep a customer without having to lower the price to all customers in an undefined competitive area.

What this measure actually does is to deprive any businessman, large or small, from using a defensive weapon--not to procure new customers--but to keep a customer. I am of the opinion that its impact on our whole economy would be to impair and not preserve competition. For that reason the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, and also the former chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, have testified in opposition to this measure.

I believe that is the whole story.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen