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Dear ...:

Let me advise that I intend to oppose the measure now pending which would adopt and impose federal standards for unemployment compensation upon the various states.

The unemployment compensation system was initiated as a federal-state undertaking. Administratively, it has worked well. If standards are too low, the remedy as recommended by the President lies with the legislatures, all but three of whom are in session in 1959 and four of whom have acted already.

Conditions are not uniform in the different states. The Governors, through their Executive Committee, recently expressed themselves as able and willing to meet whatever problems may arise in this field.

This is not an emergent matter and I am under the considered opinion that it is in the national interest to leave it in the hands of the states and encourage them to improve existing standards wherever necessary.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen