November 17, 1960

Dear ...:

I believe I can say as a matter of fact that for the last twenty years proposals have been pending in the House and Senate and have in fact been under consideration to modify or to abolish the Electoral College system now provided by the Constitution for the election of a president and a vice president.

As a general thing, there was a substantial interest in the matter immediately after the election, and the interest then began to wane with the result that on the occasions when a proposal did come on for action, it did not gain the necessary two-thirds vote inasmuch as it must be done by a constitutional resolution.

Presently, judging by the mails, there is high interest everywhere in the country and proposals are already being drafted to modify this system in one respect or another. There is a real chance that something could be done in the on-coming Session which begins on January 3, and you can be assured that it will have very good attention.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
November 10, 1960

Dear ..:

I believe I can say as a matter of fact that for the last twenty years proposals have been pending in the House and Senate and have in fact been under consideration to modify or to abolish the Electoral College system now provided by the Constitution for the election of a president and a vice president.

As a general thing, the substantial interest that usually develops in this matter immediately after an election soon begins to wane, with the result that on those occasions in the past when such a proposal did come on for action the two-thirds vote necessary for a constitutional resolution was not obtained.

Presently, judging by the mails, there is high interest everywhere in the country and proposals are already being drafted to modify this system in one respect or another. There is a real chance that something could be done in the on-coming Session which begins on January 3, and you can be assured that it will have very good attention.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen