Dear ...:

In every Congress that I can recall in the last 27 years, there have been proposals to modify our immigration policies. This is particularly true since 1952, when the McCarran-Walter Act was approved by Congress over the President's veto.

Perhaps the most potent force in stimulating interest in modifications of present immigration policy was World War II.

Among other things, it developed population pressures, problems relating to refugees and expellees, war orphans, strong nationalistic feelings in some quarters of the world that our policies were unduly restrictive and discriminatory, and a conviction on the part of many countries who can accommodate additional immigrants that they should not be expected to open their doors to migrants unless we also were willing to increase the number of both quota and non-quota immigrants who might come to the United States.

This is the general basis for the new administration bill which was suggested by the Department of Justice, the Immigration Service and the President, which I introduced.

It is now before the appropriate committees of both House and Senate and in due course, testimony will be taken from both the proponents and opponents of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen