May 23, 1961

Dear .......

The new omnibus agriculture bill now pending before the respective committees in the House and Senate is something of a warmed-over version of a bill which was under consideration in the House of Representatives two years ago and so definitely lodges almost complete authority in the hands of the Secretary and divests the Congress of its proper legislative authority and functions in dealing with the over-all problem of agriculture.

For a long time it was our earnest hope that we were moving away from rather than toward controls, but such does not seem to be the philosophy of Secretary Freeman and his professorial adviser, Dr. Cochrane.

You can be assured that the Congress will have plenty to say on this subject and I am sure that some major surgery is in store before further action is taken on an over-all farm bill.

With every good wish,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Dear:

Both Senate and House Committees on Agriculture have taken testimony and modified the Administration's feed grain program as submitted by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Senate version constitutes a very sharp modification of the Administration bill and will probably come on for action within a few days.

I am advised that shortly the Administration proposes to message to Congress its over-all long range farm program and this will give an opportunity for further exploration of the whole problem.

This matter will have the most careful consideration in the hope that an acceptable measure can be developed.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Dear ...:

The President's message on long range farm legislation reached the Congress on Thursday, March 15, and my first impression is that it virtually proposes a completely regimented agriculture from top to bottom. I know that this proposal will provoke a great deal of discussion.

Be assured that this will have good attention as it moves through the House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen