Railroad Mergers
S. 942, S. 1138, S. Res. 136

June 20, 1963

Dear:

Thanks for the communication you recently signed urging that the Congress "stop railroad mergers now", with a plea in favor of S. 942, S. 1138, and S. Res. 136. The Senate Antitrust and Monopoly Subcommittee held hearings last year in which Interstate Commerce Commission witnesses testified against similar proposals.

Under Secretary of Commerce Clarence D. Martin, Jr., representing the Administration, was against the enactment of Senator Kefauver's bill. The industry people were against the bill and the labor unions were in favor of the Kefauver bill. The proposed legislation died in the Judiciary Committee when Congress adjourned last year, but I understand there will be further hearings this year in connection with the above mentioned bills.

Concerning S. Res 136, I shall follow with interest the position taken by the Rules Committee as to whether there is a need for such an inquiry. Some of the matters suggested in S. Res. 136 were explored and discussed during the antitrust hearings last year.

I can understand the great concern of members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and their friends making this plea. Congress reflected this great concern for the weaknesses of the railroad industry when it enacted the Transportation Act of 1958. President Kennedy also showed his concern in his message of April 5, 1963.

The Congress of the United States gave the authority to the Interstate Commerce Commission to examine all the facts and to consider all possible effects before granting a merger, and also to assure that there is protection to the railroad workers.

On a matter as important as this, I want to be frank with you and set forth the problem facing the President, the Congress, and the Interstate Commerce Commission in making the decisions that each have to make in the public interest.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen