Dear:

As you know by now, the proposal to increase the salary of federal workers, including members of Congress, was defeated in the House of Representatives. It is possible that another bill will be presented to the Senate after the civil rights bill has been disposed of, however, it is difficult to predict just when that will be accomplished.

Three years ago when Congress adopted the "comparability formula" to match salaries in government with those in industry and business for comparable skill, competence and responsibilities I was prepared to let an outside agency, on which no Congressman or Senator served, make that evaluation. That Commission was appointed by President Kennedy under the chairmanship of Clarence Randall, one time President and Chairman of the Board of Inland Steel Corporation in Chicago. The figure for congressional salaries that appeared in the House bill was, in fact, $2,500 less than that recommended by the Randall Commission.

It is scarcely necessary to amplify the argument because I believe it is all in favor of this pay increase, since the Congress from 1789 until today, averaged a pay increase only once in twenty years.

Let me add that in the state of Pennsylvania there are 165 officers in the state government, 135 in the state of California, and 92 in the state of Illinois, who receive salaries in excess of that paid to members of the Congress.

I do appreciate your interest.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
PAY RAISE

June 12, 1964

Dear ---------:

I can certainly appreciate your interest in the legislation now pending which would increase salaries of federal workers.

Although it is difficult to say what the final language will be, I do expect to support this bill when it is presented on the Senate Floor.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Dear 

As you know by now, the federal salary legislation was passed by the Senate several weeks ago. It is now in conference committee to iron-out House and Senate differences in their respective versions of the bill, and I do hope that the Senate version is retained for I believe it is a better bill and one that will do the best job.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen