Dear ...:

First of all, let me apologize for my delay in responding to your letter. However, we have been simply inundated by an overwhelming volume of correspondence in the past months, amounting to over five thousand letters a week, and only now that the Congress has adjourned have I been allowed the time to acknowledge the messages from concerned citizens such as you.

I deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness in informing me of your views on some of the most important issues facing the country and the Congress, and you may be certain that these will continue to have my close attention during the course of our deliberations in the next Session, which convenes on January 10, 1966.

It was good to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen