Dear ...:

Thank you very much for writing me expressing your vote on the Packaging and Labeling Bill. We were limited to a certain number of words in the American Legion article, which made it difficult to enumerate all of the reasons in detail why I was against the Bill.

If I had had more space I would have quoted from FTC and FDA testimony showing they could have improved their enforcement of the present Packaging and Labeling laws which they admitted were adequate in leading to successful cases by the agencies against violators in Packaging and Labeling. Also, I would have discussed in detail the advantages of "cents-off" promotions and quoted from the testimony of the valid reasons for fractions of ounces, etc. The Hart Bill will not solve the problem, as most people are led to believe, but will create many new ones.

Since it is my responsibility to vote on this measure, I must use my best judgment in this matter, as I do in each matter that comes before the Senate. After four years of hearings on this Bill, I believe I know as much -- if not more -- about the Bill's advantages and disadvantages.

Best regards,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Dear ...:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the "Truth in Packaging" bill.

This is a complicated bill which required three years of hearings and it is difficult to give you the details in a letter. In my considered judgment it is a bad bill because it will not do the things the American public is led to believe it will do. There is a "Truth in Packaging" law and all that is needed now is better enforcement, which the FDA and the FTC promised to do.

Enclosed is a prepared letter that I send in response to inquiries on the "Truth and Packaging" bill which gives you a more detailed account, even though it is crammed into one page.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

Enclosure
Dear ..., 

Thank you for your views on S. 985.

First, let me say that I must consider the best interests of the ten and a half million people of Illinois and the one hundred and ninety-three million people of America when I make a decision. Sometimes my Republican Party members are upset at my judgment, and sometimes my friends and neighbors from Illinois do not agree with me, but it is my responsibility to make the decisions after fully reviewing the record of the hearings and the letters from constituents and people around the Country on any proposed legislation.

In my best judgment, S. 985, the mislabeled "Truth in Packaging" bill, is bad for the consumer and the public interest for the reasons I have noted in the enclosed letter which is a very brief summary of my fifty pages of Minority views and appendices.

The present Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDA) and the Federal Trade Commission Act (FTC) are fully adequate to prosecute packaging offenders who commit unfair and deceptive practices. Pages 500 to 517 and 820 to 826 of the printed hearings contain testimony of Chairman Dixon of the FTC and Commissioner Larrick of the FDA substantiating their existing powers under present FTC and FDA laws. Thus no new laws are needed, only strong enforcement of existing laws. Both the FDA and FTC officials testified that they could do a better job in the future with more appropriations, which should be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

Enclosure