SUNDAY VOTING
March 2, 1965

United States Senate

Dear:

I have no great bias one way or the other on the question of Sunday voting in a number of European countries, and it simply occurred to me that it might be well to test out the idea with the American people and obtain their views.

I am fully sensible of the fact that there has been objection on other occasions among church groups and it may be that my estimate of the importance of the political life and the relation of people to their government is much higher than the common estimate, because I believe there is something quite sacred about a citizen's duty to his government. I believe the Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Romans, spoke of a relationship between the spirit of the Lord and liberty.

The most basic of all functions of government is that of preserving the liberties of the people and therefore, in exercising the ballot, citizens undertake something which to me is quite holy. If we can ever get that spirit into our public life, what an improvement there will be -- not only in the public service but in the quality of people who present themselves for that service.

I do not believe the question of church and state separation is involved in this issue because the citizens are still free to render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's.

This, after all, a matter for our people to determine and for that reason I am quite delighted to have your comments.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen