Dear ...:

You are probably aware that ever since the issuance of the Administration's January 13 order to close a number of Veterans Administration facilities, including the one in Illinois at Dwight, I have availed myself of every opportunity to fortify a position of strong opposition.

In the light of the formidable and widespread resistance to the order which developed among many other members of the House and Senate on both sides of the aisle, veterans' organizations, the general public, et cetera, the President recently appointed an eight-member committee to completely reevaluate the January 13 order. This committee, which includes members of the House and Senate and a former Veterans Administrator, is scheduled to report its findings no later than June 1 and it is anticipated that further action based on such findings will be announced at that time.

You may certainly be assured of my continued opposition to the closure action.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Dear:

Thank you very much for your recent communication.

As you know, along with the Majority Leader and other members of the Senate, I appeared very recently before the Veterans Affairs Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee to protest the closure of all those veterans facilities -- including the one in Illinois at Dwight -- which were included in the order issued by the Veterans Administration.

We hope, in view of the widespread interest and the heavy protest by members of the House and Senate, that the closure order will be rescinded and the matter given further study but whether the Administration will take such action remains to be seen. In any event this protest was the strongest that members of the Senate, Republican and Democrat alike, could lodge and we will certainly continue to press our position.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
United States Senate

Vets Hosp

1965  Fo. 24th.

Dear:

Along with the Majority Leader and other members of the Senate, I appeared earlier before the Veterans Affairs Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee to protest the closure of those veterans facilities -- including the one in Illinois at Dwight -- which were included in the order issued by the Veterans Administration. Then recently the Senate approved a proposal which, if it had been permitted to stand, would have had the effect of prohibiting the use of funds already appropriated to the Veterans Administration for implementing its announced closure action. However, more recently the House and Senate conferees agreed to a substitute proposal by the President to withhold all action until May 1, apparently feeling this would provide ample opportunity for the preparation of a better case by those who oppose the closure action.

In any event, we hope that in view of the widespread interest and the heavy protest by members of the House and Senate the whole matter will be thoroughly ventilated and the order rescinded.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen