United States Senate

VITAMINS - DUFA

September 15, 1966

Dear:

I appreciate receiving your recent letter setting forth your views regarding the Food and Drug Administration regulations recently issued by Dr. James L. Goddard, Administrator.

I have been following very closely matters in which the Food and Drug Administration has been involved, especially in recent months, which appear to be contra to the principle of basic freedom of the individual. Several committees are looking into the FDA along these lines and you can be assured of my continuing interest.

You will be interested to learn that since I first took up with the FDA the matter of Dr. Goddard's remarks and the issuance of new regulations, I have been advised that because of the many letters of complaint they have been receiving setting forth strong feelings of protest regarding some of the new regulations, the FDA has now stated that they believe hearings will be held on these issues which involve substantial differences of opinion.

You may wish to note that FDA has advised that under the new regulations individuals can still obtain, without prescription, food supplements containing vitamins and minerals at levels recognized to be adequate for good nutrition.

I believe that my record in Congress since 1933 reflects that I am against the overreaching by the Federal government into matters affecting the individual in his rights and privileges guaranteed by the Constitution and by our American way of life. Certainly there has been in recent years a slow erosion of basic rights of the individual to the degree that we are slowly but surely moving away from a Federal government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

I appreciate your views and you may be assured of my attention.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen