April 18, 1967

Dear:

I appreciate your comments on the proposal for a Constitutional Convention. Thirty-two State Legislatures have petitioned the Congress under the authority in Article 5 to call a Constitutional Convention. Application by two more States will produce the necessary 2/3 so that Congress is then under a mandate to call a Convention. There is an alternative, however, in that the petitions become void if the Congress proposes an amendment of its own.

One of the things that has been overlooked in what a Constitutional Convention might or might not do in regard to amending the Constitution is the fact that a Convention has authority to propose amendments, nothing more. They do not automatically become a part of the Constitution, but must be ratified by 3/4 of the States before becoming a part of the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen