August 1, 1967

Dear:

The story in the Wall Street Journal concerning the Subversive Activities Control Board tells only part of the story. That Board was created by the Internal Security Act of 1950 and was functioning extremely well until a series of court decisions tied its hands. As a result, the Attorney General thereafter failed to send petitions to the Board directing it to continue its investigations of Communist fronts and subversive organizations and likewise individual members of the Communist Party.

Fifty bills were introduced in the House of Representatives to bring the Board's activities and its authority in line with the Supreme Court decisions but neither House nor Senate has taken action to meet the problem and lift the Board out of its difficulties. The fault in large measure lies with the failure of Congress to act.

I have introduced a bill in the Senate to meet the problem and with my brief remarks I included statements from the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the military order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of World War I, and the AMVETS in support of the retention of the Board and the enactment of legislation to make it function as was intended.

The fact that a new appointee to the Board happened to have married a former secretary to the President has in my judgment no bearing in the case whatsoever. I trust that without delay this whole matter can be adjusted because this Board can serve an extremely useful purpose and the inescapable fact remains that the Communist threat is real, is present, and is an immediate danger.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen