November 9, 1967

Dear:

In the original Constitution, provision was made for apportioning membership in the House of Representatives so that there should be one representative for every 30,000 people with a provision that each state shall have at least one representative. If that ratio were applied today, we would have approximately 6,700 members in the House of Representatives and this would certainly be an unmanageable assembly. The Constitution was amended, however. Section 2 of the 14th Article of Amendment has new language regarding the apportionment of representatives. Congress has interpreted this language as giving them the authority to determine how many members there will be in the House of Representatives and they have placed the limit at 435 as the number to be selected by the fifty states, with each state still having at least one representative. Each state is guaranteed two Senators.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen