Dear:

Rather than have someone tell me what was happening in Chicago, I appeared at the ceremony in the Public Plaza where 150 young men were inducted into the Marine Corps and then promptly left for Grant Park to see one of the confrontations which was then in progress. I heard some of the obscenities and I could sense in an instant what a dangerous picture this could be. It required, therefore, a minimum of restraint to maintain law and order and insofar as I could determine, this is precisely what the police and the troops were endeavoring to do nothing more.

Over the years I have become acquainted with hundreds of Chicago Police. They are mature men, they have been trained, they have families, they are restrained, they are quick on the trigger, they do not lightly use the nightstick, and they accept a lot of provocation before action. I think it must be said that in the main they comported themselves quite well and the amount of mail which we received is testimony to that fact. I know, of course, there are others, and in fact a substantial number of people, who do not agree with these views but that is their privilege in a free land.

The President's Commission on Causes and Prevention of Violence and Disorder, of which Milton O. Eisenhower is Chairman, has decided to investigate all aspects of the Chicago convention insofar as it related to communications, violence, mass misconduct and so forth. Also, Chief Judge William J. Campbell of the Federal District Court in Chicago has ordered a sweeping Federal Grand Jury investigation of these incidents. Representative Edwin E. Willis, Chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee, announced on September 12th that this Committee will undertake an investigation of the subversive elements involved in the Democrat Convention.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen