April 22, 1969

Dear:

Your communication has just come to my attention regarding proposed legislation, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, that would terminate alleged discrimination against nationals of Ireland entering the United States.

The Act reformed America's immigration policy by ending the arbitrary and unjust national origins quota system and substituting a system of preferences, giving priority to the reuniting of families and the admission of persons with needed skills.

In the case of Ireland, where most immigrants have been young, without formal training or immediate family already in the United States, the new preference categories will, no doubt, freeze out many potential Irish immigrants. The Act requires sixth preference immigrants, skilled or unskilled, to have a definite job before they come to this country. They must show that they will not displace an American worker. The Act not only applies to Irish nationals, but to all Western Europeans who wish to immigrate to the United States.

Legislation has been introduced to alleviate the effects of the 1965 Act by removing the definite job requirements. You may be sure that it will have my sustained attention when it is placed on the agenda of the Committee on the Judiciary for consideration in executive session.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen