May 15, 1968

Dear:

There have been various types of proposals advanced that would, if enacted, provide some type of guaranteed annual wage. It does not appear that the Congress will be able to agree upon legislation in this field during the present Session. In the first place, no one can tell with any degree of certainty what such a program would cost or who would benefit from it if it were approved.

There have been other proposals in this area to make the government an employer of last resort but it seems to me that our previous experience with this type of proposal was not too satisfactory or productive. The approach that I prefer is to see a sound economy -- one that is expanding every year and providing additional jobs so that proposals for guaranteed annual income are unnecessary.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen