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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

DARRELL ST. CLAIRE, CHIEF CLERK
RUSSELL C. KING, CHIEF COUNSEL

June .., 1952

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Dear:

There has been a substantial number of letters and wires expressing interest in the pending Fair Trade Bill now before the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. Some are for and some are against. I believe, however, that I detect a tendency to oversimplify the issue for one thing and to miss the point at issue for another. As you doubtless know Congress approved the Fair Trade principle in the Miller-Tydings Act in 1937. The recent decision of the Supreme Court by a divided vote in the Schwegmann case was to the effect that the original Fair Trade Act did not exempt from Federal laws the enforcement of the state fair trade laws as it relates to those businesses that did not sign a Fair Trade Act.

The bill now pending, therefore, has for its purpose a remedy so that the forty-five states which have Fair Trade laws can be applied and enforced with respect to non-signers as well as signers of a Fair Trade Act with any particular manufacturer. The bill passed the House by an overwhelming majority but notwithstanding that fact the Senate Commerce Committee has been holding extensive hearings and developing the whole case.

I have also gone back to examine the rather extensive seventy page report of the Small Business Committee of the House of Representatives on this very problem and note that this Committee which is especially designed for the protection of small business does approve the principle in the McGuire Bill, which passed the House. In any event this matter will have most careful attention.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

MR. RAINVILLE

FAIR TRADE JULY 29

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

July .., 1952

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Dear:

Your communication with respect to the Fair Trade Bill arrived just at the end of the session and at the time action was being taken on this proposal. As you have probably noted this bill, H. R. 5767, passed the House and Senate and was signed by the President.

I do appreciate your comments.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen