

MR. RAINVILLE

ROBOTYPE STEEL

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ROBERT H. MOLLOHAN, CHIEF CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April .., 1952

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Dear ...:

I share your concern over the President's seizure of the steel mills under vague authority because it is in truth and in fact a seizure of private property which might well become a precedent and jeopardize the guarantees which exist in the law and in the Constitution.

It seems to me that much of this difficulty stems from the Wage Stabilization Board. Had it been composed on a different basis this whole difficulty might have been avoided.

Several things are under way to deal with this all important matter. In addition to the resolution adopted in the House of Representatives to investigate the seizure and the alleged powers under which it was done, a resolution has been introduced in the Senate, of which I am a co-sponsor, to make a similar and equally far reaching investigation.

Secondly, the Committee on Banking and Currency, of which I am a member, will consider an amendment which I introduced recently to place the Wage Stabilization Board on a statutory basis, require the number of public members to exceed the aggregate of labor and industry members, to require Senate confirmation of public members, and to limit the jurisdiction of the Wage Stabilization Board to wage and stabilization functions.

Had this proposal been in effect before, the knotty issues with which W.S.B. dealt, such as the union shop demand, would have gone back to the National Labor Relations Board, where it properly belonged. It would also have made possible the orderly procedures under the Taft-Hartly Act for dealing with an emergency situation of this kind, and would have obviated the necessity for seizing private property.

I can assure you this is a live issue and it will be vigorously pursued.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

MR. RAINVILLE

STEEL

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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 ...:

By a decisive vote the Senate on Tuesday made it plain to the President that it was the sense of the Senate that he use the Taft-Hartley Act to compose the present steel strike.

This is quite in line with the explicit provisions in Title Five of the Defense Production Act, which states that the settlement of labor disputes must be made in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of existing law, including the Taft-Hartley Act.

The action of the Senate unequivocally affirmed this position.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen