

MR. RAINVILLE

PREFERENTIAL PRIMARIES

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

July .., 1952

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Dear ...:

In response to your inquiry concerning the possibility of preferential primaries for the nomination of president and vice president in the various states, there is pending on the Senate calendar at the present time a bill which was reported by the Rules Committee of the Senate which would authorize the Attorney General to use federal funds in assisting states in the conduct of such primaries.

No action was taken on this bill prior to adjournment but it is entirely possible that new interest will develop in the days ahead as a result of the actions taken by the convention. I shall continue to give this matter very careful and sustained consideration.

It occurs to me that some thought should be given to the question of setting up a bipartisan federal commission either to survey this matter further or to initiate the plan rather than put it in the hands of the Attorney General since he would be representing a political point of view, regardless of what party might be in power.

I am grateful for your suggestion.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen