January 29, 1955

The Honorable Carl Hayden
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
U. S. Capitol, Suite F37-C
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Hayden:

In California, Maine, New York and Massachusetts the State governments have been operating what are known as Maritime Academies for the training of Merchant Marine officers. The students have graduated with their papers as deck or engineer officers and have also been commissioned in the U. S. Naval Reserve. On this basis the Congress has appropriated for Federal contributions to the budgets of the academies since 1911. In fiscal year 1955 the amount for the four schools was $600,000. The budget as presented for fiscal 1956 contains nothing for this purpose.

I have discussed this matter with the Senators from the four States and we agree that consequences of a somewhat serious nature could ensue from abandoning the program at this time. The international situation, which apparently will be tense for many years to come, emphasizes the importance of this resource for training officers. The enrollments in the academies at the end of the last school year were 495 at the New York academy; 224, Maine; 180, Massachusetts; and 130, California.

The Senators from the States above desire to appear before your committee to urge amendment of the budget in an amount of $750,000 for support of the Academies in fiscal 1956. I shall very much appreciate being notified of a time when we may appear and I shall be happy to inform our colleagues when this will be.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Very sincerely,

Thomas H. Kuchel
United States Senator

KSt

cc: Sen. Smith
    Sen. Payne
    Sen. Saltonstall
    Sen. Kennedy
    Sen. Lehman
    Sen. Ives
    Sen. Knowland