

2-5-1948

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, February 5-10, 1948

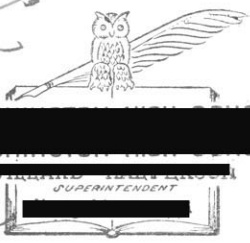
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FEB 7 1948



This letter heading does not apply at present, as I am taking a year's vacation from school work.

Present address is as below.

Ridgeland, Mississippi,
February 5, 1948.

Hon. John C. Stennis,
Senator from Mississippi,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Stennis:- Not long ago I wrote you to express my pleasure at your election, and I stated that a reply would not be necessary, for I can well imagine how precious to you are all your minutes. You however wrote me a very nice letter, and it was appreciated. Thank you also for your arrangement as to films.

Just now there is startling news of more meddling by northern members of our government into affairs that should be solely the affairs of state governments. Either they are woefully ignorant or grossly selfish.

I have lived in Mississippi three and a half years, coming here from Des Moines, Iowa, and I am aware that many persons here look upon me as a northerner, considerably to my disadvantage perhaps. It happens that I have always been in sympathy with the southern "way of life", and always, when I read about consequent filibustering in Congress, I have hoped for southern success.

(Since living in Mississippi, and seeing things as they really are, I believe I feel more keenly on the subject than I would had I always lived in the South. Not all people in the North, I am glad to say, are critical of southern treatment of the negro, and it so happens, with the steady increase in the North's negro population, all the white people there will want to move south, to get away from the arrogant northern negro.

I wish there were some way I could bring to the people of the north, some of whom are so solicitous for the poor downtrodden negro, that their actions and words are threatening to ruin themselves, as well as the people of the South.

Strange to say, the negro in the South seems to me to be happier than the negro in the North. Why, I wonder, couldn't the North help the South to help the negro, which the South is trying to do, instead of thinking they know it all. They are just making it tough.

Wouldn't Senator Byrd of Virginia be an acceptable Democratic nominee for the presidency? Or is the North going to have Truman in spite of a united South to the contrary. This might be a good time for the South to be Republican for one day, as just now it looks as if the coming election will be Republican; or better yet, have a candidate of their own even though of course it would be impossible to secure his election.

Yours most truly,

No reply required unless I can do some good.

C. WAYLAND BROOKS, ILL., CHAIRMAN
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ALBERT L. SEIDEL, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

February 10, 1948

Mr. [REDACTED]
Hidgeland, Mississippi

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your letter of February 5th containing so much helpful thought. It is encouraging to learn that a Northerner, living in the South, does understand the South's problem and can appreciate and sympathize with our viewpoint.

These are indeed difficult times, but I believe that if we all work at common-sense solutions we will pull through and render a real service to our nation and the world.

I appreciate having your views in this matter and would like to hear from you from time to time.

Sincerely yours,

U. S. S.

JCS:RVM