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## Senator Stennis Civil Rights Correspondence B01F05L05

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MAR 1 1948

Oxford, Miss.

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
Feb., 25, 1948

Senator John Stennis

Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Stennis

~~Soon~~ after your entry into the Senate I had a very nice letter from you suggesting that I write to you about any matter that I was interested in. Many things have come up that I consider vital to the interest of the people of Mississippi, and I have observed with pride the stand taken by you and Senator Eastland on the floor of the Senate.

I still trust you two gentlemen as representatives of Mississippi in that great body, but I think both of you want to hear from the "Grass roots" occasionally. I have talked with many people about the present uprising of "Jeffersonian Democrats" and it is my candid and considered opinion that it has little support among the rank and file of white democrats in Mississippi. Here is what I think the people

of this state want ~~any~~ <sup>with</sup> regards <sup>to</sup> the controversy.  
We want our representatives in Washington to  
protect our interest to the best of their  
ability, even to the extent of using fillibuster  
tactics. We expect them to do this in the  
framework of the Democratic Party. If it  
becomes necessary to get out of the National  
Democratic Party, I think we should do so.  
However, I think we should have some idea  
where we are going. I do not see how the  
Wright-Tuck Plan could lead to anything  
but Republican success and the destruction  
of democracy <sup>small "d" used  
advisedly</sup> in the South. Surely you  
can trust the voters of the South who  
are white and have paid their poll  
taxes to vote for such cherished institutions  
as deserve to live. As I see it, the Wright-Tuck  
Plan would prevent electors pledged to the  
president from being placed on the ballot. All  
this is to be done in the name of Thomas  
Jefferson whose greatest contribution to American  
life was faith in all the people to do what was

best for them and <sup>3</sup>the Country. In case they get  
away with the scheme, here is my prediction—  
if no electors appear on the ticket in the South  
except Wallace electors, Republican electors and electors  
pledged to the Wright-Tuck Plan; five or six of the  
Southern States will vote the Republican ticket; two  
or three will go to Wallace and perhaps the  
bolters might carry a state or two.

I hope you and Senator Eastland read  
the fine account of the fight you and he  
made in your testimony before the Committee in  
opposition to Anti-poll tax and Anti-lynching laws. It  
told how Senator Eastland chained up Chairman  
Ferguson (Dem. of Michigan) in discussing the  
Nature and meaning of the Constitution. I  
am sure that Jim did make him look  
right silly, but I had labored under the opinion  
that Senator Ferguson was a Republican and  
I am sure the Republicans thought so when they  
made him Chairman of the Committee. Could it  
be that the A.P., the S.O.P. and the Commercial Appeal  
were working together on this matter and trying to  
use Senator Eastland's great argument to their advantage?

I did not intend to write you such a long letter when I started, but I could not seem to find a stopping place. If you wish, you can show this to Senator Eastland. I have addressed this letter to you because you invited me to do so.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

P.S. You might tell [REDACTED] that I had Freshman English with him at "Ole Miss"

C. M. S.

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

March 4, 1948

*Civil Rights*

Mr. [REDACTED]  
Etta, Mississippi

Dear [REDACTED]:

I deeply appreciate your good letter of February 25th, which contains much good sound advice. I am convinced that you see very close to the true picture as it appears to be shaping up.

We are preparing for an all-out fight against the so-called Civil Liberties Bills. It will be close, but we are determined to win.

Your advice and counsel are always welcome, and I am glad that you are favoring me with suggestions.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

U. S. S.

JCS:MLL