

3-4-1948

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, March 4-9, 1948

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/jcs-civil-rights-correspondence>

Preferred Citation

[Title], John C. Stennis Collection. Mississippi Political Collections, Mississippi State University Libraries.

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the John C. Stennis Digital Collections at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in Civil Rights Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com.

CHICAGO, ILL.

RADCLIFFE 9114

Mar. 4 - 48.

Dear Senator Stennis:-

Please read attached clippings from Chicago papers. We here in Chicago sympathize with the South and hope you will not back down on your fight with Truman. Your whole future is at stake. The blacks here are terrible and vigilante committees were patrolling the streets in some sections to protect white girls from rapes, etc.

Many other bills are aimed at the South also. The education bill that allows money for religious schools should be defeated. It will rise to haunt the South. Also compulsory medicine.

Please note the article where Catholics have been ordered to vote certain ways. Are they in politics? They could be ordered to vote against Southern Democrats. They they would like us to finance their tuition schools, when they don't believe in our public schools.

Look at Myron Taylor at the Vatican. This is the first step. Talk about this with Sen. Eastland. Yours truly

Catholic edict bans votes for 'far left'

Vatican City (AP)--The Sacred Consistorial Congregation of the Roman Catholic Church issued a decree Wednesday informing Catholics that they may vote only for candidates who will "respect and defend the rights of the church."

Vatican sources said the decree applies to Catholics throughout the world. Pope Pius XII himself serves as prefect of this congregation. Its members include Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York and James Cardinal McGuigan of Toronto.

Throughout 165 Catholic prelates, following the lead of Alfredo Ildefonso Cardinal Schuster, immediately made clear that the decree precluded a vote by Catholics for Communist or extreme left candidates. The Consistorial Congregation is the high legislative and administrative body of the church.

A personal letter by Cardinal

Schuster two weeks ago ordered priests in his diocese to refuse absolution to Communists.

The cardinal's letter also warned Catholics that a vote for Communist candidates was "gravely illicit for the faithful."

The letter was attacked by the extreme left as a violation of Italy's electoral laws.

The decree of the Consistorial Congregation was described by Vatican sources as "normal" guidance for the faithful in political elections.

Cardinal backed

Last week the Vatican's paper Osservatore Romano backed Cardinal Schuster's stand. It declared the church would be lacking in its duty if it maintained silence before "heresy that raised a political banner."

A collective pastoral letter signed by Alessio Cardinal Ascadi, archbishop of Naples, 17 other archbishops and 55 bishops of southern Italy, was issued recently.

The letter said "nobody can at the same time be a good Catholic and a Socialist."

—By George E. Sokolsky

Politicians are more concerned with Harry Wallace's Third Party than they are over the revolt of the Southern Democrats only because the Southerners have grumbled for 15 years but have voted true to the faith.

Both Northern Democrats and Republicans discount the Southerners on the general assumption that, in the end, they will be true blue and will stand by Harry Truman, in whom they have lost faith and for whom they have no respect.

They have, as a matter of fact, sold themselves into political bondage by unrestrained loyalty to a party that ignores them.

Always Give In

Carter Glass, Jack Garner, Harry Byrd of Virginia, Huey Long, Joseph Ely of Massachusetts and even the redoubtable Jim Farley have, on occasion, rebelled, but in the end, most of them return to the fold.

That is precisely why the South, without which the Democratic Party would cease to exist, has lost its influence in Washington. The big-city bosses, the New Dealers, the Hillman Laborites and the Communists have always figured that it did not matter what the Southerners said, they would always vote for papa. They always have.

This is a dangerous situation for any part of the country to get into, for it nullifies representation. Huey Byrd, for instance, should, by intellect, personality and character, be the leader of the Senate, but he has always abdicated leadership for party regularity even when his party stood for everything he opposed.

Lex at Polls

These Southerners would have been a powerful brake on the New Deal had they asserted themselves at the polls as they did in private or even public speech.

True, they fought the court-packing bill, but they confirmed Roosevelt's appointments and appointments.

True, some of them have combined with Republicans in matters of taxation and labor legislation but when it came to voting, they voted for the third term and the fourth term -- which most of them opposed in principle.

Harry Truman believes that they will vote for him no matter what he does or says.

Political Parade

—By George
Rothwell Brown

WASHINGTON, Mar. 1.—The Republican Party is going to run into some trouble of its own if it attempts to jam the Truman civil rights program through Congress, with a view to widening the Democratic split.

Western rural Republicans don't like FEPC any more than do southern conservatives, so the chances are slim this so-called fair employment scheme—modeled on the Dewey-Ives Law in New York—will get very far this year.

The bill already indorsed by a Senate committee may get through that body, but the snag will come in the House. It is not on the agenda there.

The facts are that the Republican Congress appears to be little disposed at this time to inflict upon the splintering Democrats the full measure of political embarrassment that would be possible.

Not Enthused

Obviously, the present Republican Congress cannot, as a matter of smart politics in a presidential year with the whole party interest at stake, refrain from doing what a Roosevelt-controlled House repeatedly did when the New Deal was in full bloom, particularly since a Democratic President is demanding it.

But if the bill gets through both House and Senate, and becomes law by President Truman's signature, the South will feel that its back is to the wall, and it will fight.

Possible Action

If the South is as determined to fight the Truman civil rights program with everything it has, there are plenty of things Southern senators and representatives can do to prove to the North that the South is not "in the bag."

They can begin now to slow down the whole Truman legislative program, Marshall plan and all, to lessen the time of a possible filibuster against the anti-lynching bill.

They can help to pass a tax bill over a veto.

They can aid Republican economizers in bringing about large reductions in the vast federal bureaucracy.

C. WAYLAND BROOKS, ILL., CHAIRMAN

KENNETH S. WHERRY, NEBR.

CARL HAYDEN, ARIZ.

BURKE B. HICKENLOOPER, IOWA

THEODORE FRANCIS GREEN, R. I.

WILLIAM F. KNOWLAND, CALIF.

BRIEN MC MAHON, CONN.

HENRY CABOT LODGE, JR., MASS.

FRANCIS J. MYERS, PA.

WILLIAM E. JENNER, IND.

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS.

JOHN W. BRICKER, OHIO

IRVING M. IVES, N. Y.

ALBERT L. SEIDEL, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

March 9, 1948

Dr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. [REDACTED]:

This will acknowledge your letter of March 4th with clippings attached. I am very glad to have your views on the pending legislation, which would affect our whole country.

Appreciating your thoughtfulness, and with kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

U. S. S.

JCS:RVM