

3-4-1948

## Senator Stennis Civil Rights Correspondence B01F05L07

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MAR 5 1948

WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 4th 1948

Honorable John C. Stennis,  
United States Senator,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Stennis:

Since noting in the Star of today a short notice of your speech today citing very briefly that which to my mind is convincing proof that the leaders today seem to be lost and far at sea with the rudder gone.

From the Washington Post of 1st or 2nd I clipped the enclosed and am sending it to you with a view to have it published in the Congressional Record. It is food for thought at any rate and contributes an answer to many of the charges being put forth for that abortive piece of proposed legislation.

In answering some of the arguments relating to the poll tax item, will state that I quoted an incident heard more than sixty years since. I give it roughly, but to my mind it has a good point.

In a certain Virginia church in the early 1880s a certain divine was asked to come and aid in conducting a revival. He was personally known to me when I was a boy. He was welcomed there for a three weeks meeting for revival. The first week was a very poor week as far as converts were concerned and it was decided to have a get together meeting. At this meeting various ones were asked to say a word to the people assembled, and it came to one brother to have his say and he began thus: Bretheren, I believe the failure of the past week has been due to the fact that the people have no desire to incur any additional expense and for that reason we are lagging back, let me say bretheren, that I have been a member of this Church for 31 years and it has never cost me a cent in all that time. The visiting revivalist came right out in a loud voice and said; "May God have mercy on your stingy soul." I then stated I felt the same way about any poll tax. That the man or woman that will not contribute a modest fee for the right to vote, is too rotten at heart to be granted any consideration.

My stay here in Washigton for the past 26 years brought me in contact with a great many people and none I liked better than my good friend Hon. [redacted] from your State. I hope some day to have the pleasure of meeting you.

Sincerely yours,

*Copy the marked  
Sent to  
mark it - "Washington Post  
1st or 2nd of Mar. 1948*

### Editor **Lincoln On Equality**

While we are about this business of evaluating Abraham Lincoln—as we have done recently from platform, in the press and over radio—it might be well to keep the record straight. From the manner in which we have been reminded that “This is what he said,” we might easily draw the conclusion that he was not only the Great Emancipator of slavery but also the foremost crusader for social racial equality.

The merits of social equality are beside the point; what is important is that Lincoln be accurately represented, and for this purpose the following is quoted from a speech made in Charleston, Ill., on September 18, 1858:

“I will say, then, that I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the political and social equality of the white and black races; that I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of making voters or jurors of Negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people; and I will say in addition to this that there is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races being together on terms of social and political equality.

“And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together, there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I, as much as any other man, am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white man.”

Washington

*The Washington Post*  
*March 1st or 2nd, 1948*

*"Letter to the Editor"*  
*column*

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March 1st or 2nd, 1948

"Letters to the Editor" Column

Lincoln on Equality

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[REDACTED]

Washington, D. C.

Sent in by [REDACTED], Plaza Hotel,  
Washington, D. C., March 4, 1948

C. WAYLAND BROOKS, ILL., CHAIRMAN  
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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

March 6, 1948

Mr. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

I deeply appreciate your nice letter of March 4th. Your words are encouraging indeed, especially so at this time with the tremendous load of legislation before us.

Your advice and counsel are always welcome, and I hope that you will continue to favor me with suggestions. I very much appreciate your calling to my attention the quotation contained in the clipping you enclosed.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

U. S. S.

JCS:MVM