

7-27-1948

## Senator Stennis Civil Rights Correspondence B01F13L06

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

August 5, 1948

Mr. [REDACTED]  
State Agent  
State Department of Education  
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

I want to extend you my personal word of thanks for your kind and encouraging letter of July 27th. I would like very much to talk matters over with you, and wish that we could find such a time. When I come to Jackson there are so many matters that I have to go over that there is no time for proper conversation. At some later time I might presume on you with the request that you drive over to DeKalb where we will have a chance to discuss these matters in full. I believe that you can help me and that you will have some good suggestions.

Again thanking you, I am

Your friend,

U. S. Senator

JCS:eh

# State of Mississippi

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
J. M. TUBB, SUPERINTENDENT



## NEGRO EDUCATION

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DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION  
T. N. TOUCHSTONE, DIRECTOR  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

July 27, 1948

Hon. John C. Stennis  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Stennis:

I am very grateful to you for your letter containing a resume of the work of the Eightieth Congress. I kept up with this session through the newspapers fairly accurately and I had already noted that none of the Civil Rights matters had passed; but at any rate, I was glad to get your summary.


From the press I noted with pleasure that you were defending the southern cause on the basis of the constitutionality or the unconstitutionality of these proposed measures. That, in my judgment, is the only tenable position to be taken by a United States Senator. From my point of view, it is a great mistake to make appeals based on prejudice and passion, either for or against measures of this kind.

It is very difficult for one at this distance to have a proper idea and a proper conception of all that goes on in the National Congress. I am sure serving as a Senator is a very difficult undertaking, especially in these latter days when there are so many selfish vested interests and pressure groups. One reason why I read Drew Pearson is because he attempts to give inside information that never gets to the people through the regular channels. Of course, I always have to discount a certain amount of what he says in his columns. I do not know that he is giving the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

At some convenient time when you are in this part of the country I should like very much to be able to sit down and talk over matters of interest to you and to this state.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter that came to me recently. This sounds very pathetic. We have entirely too much of this sort of thing in our state. That is why I want to see our people in Mississippi do everything possible to strengthen our household from within.

Cordially yours,

  
P. H. Eason  
State Agent

PHE:KGE

JUL 29 1948



JACKSON 108, MISSISSIPPI

July 28, 1948

Senator John C. Stennis  
U. S. Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Friend:

My pulse quickened and I figuratively stuck my thumbs in my vest and stuck out my chest this morning when I read the headlines of the paper to the effect that you have been selected to lead the fight against the President's so-called "Civil Rights" program when it comes up in the Senate.

It is also gratifying to note that your fight will be made along constitutional lines and that you are the one thought to be the best qualified to make such a presentation of the matters under consideration.

That you will do a magnificent job of it, I have no doubt. While it will take a lot of research and hard work to get the citations, quotations, and court decisions on the subject, properly arranged, if you have not already done so, it is my hope that when you will have finished your presentation of facts and arguments, the record of what you have said and done will be a pattern for others to emulate as a high order of statesmanship, and that the facts you have presented will serve as a sort of handbook on the subject for future reference for those who are interested in the subject.

It has long been my conviction that many Northern Democrats, and Republicans, too, for that matter, who are now howling their heads off about the so-called "Civil Rights, either don't know what it's all about or don't care. They are simply accepting the exaggerated statements of the minority groups who in many instances make a lot of noise without much substance.

They forget that many of the outstanding statesmen of their own section, in by-gone days, struck some heavy blows for States' Rights.

Such a line of arguments as you have in mind will be refreshing and a real news feature which I feel sure the papers will carry. If the people get the facts, I'm not afraid of the results.

Much history has been made since your letter of July 12 was written, giving me a resume of the fight in the 80th Congress on the so-called "Civil Rights" legislation; much of which strengthens our position before the Nation and will add immeasurably to the strength of your position and a more favorable hearing for your arguments now than at any time before, because people generally, and Congress in particular, realize more fully the seriousness of the situation

JUL 29 1948