

1-7-1948

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, January 7-May 20, 1948

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PONTOTOC, MISSISSIPPI

January, 7, 1948

Hon. John C. Stennis,
U. S. Senator,
Washington, D. C.
Dear Senator;

JAN 9 1948

The enclosed, expresses my sentiments admirably. I have thought for sometime, that if this republican democracy was to be saved, our southern statesmen, and cultural traditions would furnish the sentiment, and political integrity to overcome unwholesome isms.

Your Friend,
[Redacted Signature]

1. Thank you so much for your letter.
2. Agree with your sentiment 100%.
3. Am interested in your other observations on any subject and want to hear from you.
4. Came to see me in 1948.

Despite Court Rulings, South Won't Change, Historian Says

By The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 6.—A Southern historian took a long and searching look at his native section and concluded Tuesday that the South is everlasting and will continue to maintain its identity and to espouse the one-party political system and the doctrine of white supremacy.

Dr. Francis Butler Simkins, a South Carolinian and associated professor of history at State Teachers College at Farmville, Va., where he has been a faculty member for 19 years, was in Richmond in connection with the release date of his book "The South, Old and New."

The definite history of the modes that have prevailed and, Simkins said, always will prevail below the Mason-Dixon Line covers 1820 on into 1947. He selected 1820 as a departure point because in that year the slavery issue was touched off in Congress as a prelude to the Missouri Compromise.

Thorough Exploration

The book is a thorough exploration of the region as to race, religion, political practices, social custom, agriculture, commerce and industry as well as architecture, literature and the fine arts.

Although minutely indexed and carrying a lengthy bibliography, the book is written in a flowing style that puts the moisture of interpretation in proper relation to what may be history's dry fact.

Simkins disclosed that his thesis could well be summed up by calling it "The South Retains Its Past"—a title, incidentally, he submitted to his publisher (Knopf).

The South, which Simkins regards as the Nation's most religious section, still places great store on the things its citizens' fathers believed in—the Democratic Party, the country gentleman concept (this in spite of the growth of the cities) and the supremacy of the white man.

As for the negro's place in the Southern scheme of things, Simkins thinks it will be just about the same, regardless of an occasional Federal court opinion.

No Errant Stepchild

And for the parts of the Nation that are prone to regard the South

the avid reception given Margaret Mitchell's "Gone With The Wind" as a modern example.

He calls, too, upon the prediction of Count Herman Keyserling who said in 1929 in a published piece "The South — America's Hope" that when the Nation found itself, culturally "the hegemony will inevitably pass over to the South," the area south of the Potomac possessing the type "truly responsible for America's greatness in the past."

Simkins, who has taught also at the University of North Carolina and Emory University, will teach a course in Southern history next year at Louisiana State University.

*Enclosed in letter from J. A. Rayburn
dated Jan. 7, 1948*

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

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

January 14, 1948

Dr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Pontotoc, Mississippi

My dear Dr. [REDACTED]:

Thank you so much for your letter of
January the 7th and for the clipping which you enclosed.
I agree with your sentiments one hundred per cent.

Let me assure you again that I shall
always be interested in your observations and opinions
on matters of importance and hope to hear from you from
time to time.

I am looking forward to having you pay
us a visit here in Washington sometime in 1948.

With kindest personal regards and best
wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend,

U. S. S.

JCS/11

PONTOTOC, MISSISSIPPI

May, 15, 1948

Hon. John C. Stennis,
U. S. Senator,
Washington, D. C.
Dear Senator;

It is evident from my viewpoint, that unless the Southern coalition move helps to check the trend toward centralized powers, local self government will soon be a thing of the past, and freedom will be lost to the world.

been

I believe up until now, people have too negligent about protecting their heritage, but it seems that men of good will and ability are becoming aroused to the fighting point, and it is to be hoped that the fight will be carried to a successful conclusion.

Southern democracy, has in the past saved the day, and it must do it again, even at greater cost. I believe we have a Gideons, army of men who will not falter or fail in their efforts to salvage the best of the wreckage.

Sincerely yours,

MAY 20 1948

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

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

May 20, 1948

Dr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Pontotoc, Mississippi

Dear Dr. [REDACTED]:

I deeply appreciate your thoughtful letter
of May 15.

I share your concern over the growing power
of the Federal government at the expense of the various
states. The proposed civil rights legislation is a
good example of this trend, but certainly not the only
one. I shall continue to support to the limit of my
ability the principle of state rights and the cause of
private enterprise.

It was good to have your viewpoint and I
hope you will continue to favor me with suggestions.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

U. S. Senator

CHM:g