

3-24-1948

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, March 24-29, 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.

MAR 27 1948

Sand her letter -
new york
Helen Kelly
March 24, 1948

Letter Stan,

We heard your
interview on the
radio this morning.

I was really
surprised that people
here in the United
States of America
feel that all men
are ~~not~~ created equal.

How could you
say that God made
people different?
Regardless to color,
all people are

make the same
and have the same
color of blood.

The colored boys
fought and died
for this country.
I didn't hear you
say then let the
colored boys stay
here because they
are not the same.

If you will
read the 14th Article
of the Constitution
you will find that
the South seems
to be off to its
self.

Thank you please
write me and tell
me one good reason
why all people here
in the United States
should not have
the same rights.

Yours hoping
to receive an early
reply.

Citizen,
([redacted])

C. WAYLAND BROOKS, ILL., CHAIRMAN
KENNETH S. WHERRY, NEBR.
BOURKE B. HICKENLOOPER, IOWA
WILLIAM F. KNOWLAND, CALIF.
HENRY CABOT LODGE, JR., MASS.
WILLIAM E. JENNER, IND.
JOHN W. BRICKER, OHIO
IRVING M. IVES, N. Y.
CARL HAYDEN, ARIZ.
THEODORE FRANCIS GREEN, R. I.
BRIEN MC MAHON, CONN.
FRANCIS J. MYERS, PA.
JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS.

ALBERT L. SEIDEL, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

March 29, 1948

Mrs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Fresno, California

Dear [REDACTED]:

With reference to your letter of March 24th, lynching is a form of murder. All states have laws against it. Under a Federal Act you would take over the duties of a State or local Government. I favor local and State Government.

Under FEPC, the Federal Government would force the employer or dictate to him whom he should hire and fire, placing it on a basis of race when it should remain on a basis of efficiency. I favor no interference with free enterprise by local, State or Federal Government. Employment problems should be settled by arbitration between the employer and the employee.

Segregation is a social problem peculiar to those states having large populations of various races. Local social customs cannot be changed successfully except by the people directly affected. These are established customs in the States, and as such should be controlled by States. I am opposed to Federal intervention in these matters.

The Poll Tax is another matter of States' rights. It is not a tax on voting any more than a sales tax is. If the people of a state wish to tax all persons between the ages of twenty-one and sixty who wish to vote (in Mississippi $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per day) it should be their own business, as is any other State tax. I am opposed to Federal control of State elections.

All such measures will destroy the rights of States to local government, and by so doing take away some of the fundamental freedoms of the individual. The United States has grown strong and powerful under a system of allowing the peoples of States to solve their financial, social and political problems. We are still making good progress under that system. Centralized Government would, in my opinion, eventually destroy us as a strong and prosperous Nation.

Yours truly,

John C. Stennis,
U. S. S.

RDM:VM