

3-29-1948

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, March 29-April 3, 1948

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APR 1 1948

PHYSICIAN

RAYMOND, MISSISSIPPI

March 29-1948

Hon John Stennis
US Senate - Washington.

Dear Senator Stennis:

Here and there as I go along
I hear it intimated that you have been lukewarm on the controversial ^{issues} now sponsored by Pres. Truman. viz Civil rights etc. This idea no doubt arose from your remark when this question first arose. When first questioned your response was reported. I am still a freshman. Now I think I can understand your position, but there is some misunderstanding, and may I suggest that you get your opposition to these measures a bit more emphatically expressed before as on the minds of the folks back home. Kenneth Tolar could possibly clarify the matter, so could Ted Sullens. I hope you will be loaded with a good speech for our State Dem. Convention. I am not sure that they are not using this occasion to green bay Wright for your job. I think the Corner heavily particularly has that in mind. They are making great capital of this thing to show that Corner has been so ~~straight~~ all along, and if it looks good they are sure to put Fielding up. I know a lot of water can pass under the bridge in five more years, but these things are worth pondering, and though Corner's health won't permit him to try it nothing would suit him.

PHYSICIAN

RAYMOND, MISSISSIPPI

and ego like naming a Senator of his liking.
You may have been his friend, but my absence
has been that Communists are far less
use not Communists use. Anyway its
red hat down here, and you can hardly
be too emphatic on these questions.
Incidentally, I think your idea of Ike
Eisenhower a Capital one. Kuf it up. We
need someone to rescue the Country
your friend

C. WAYLAND BROOKS, ILL., CHAIRMAN

KENNETH S. WHERRY, NEBR.

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WILLIAM E. JENNER, IND.

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS.

JOHN W. BRICKER, OHIO

IRVING M. IVES, N. Y.

United States Senate

ALBERT L. SEIDEL, CLERK

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

April 3, 1948

Raymond, Mississippi

Dear Dr. [REDACTED]

I certainly thank you for your fine and helpful letter of March 29th. You were very thoughtful to write me in such a frank way, and you have really helped me.

My position with reference to the States' Rights matter is consistent and is as clear as a bell. In my platform, in my campaign literature, and in every speech that I made in Mississippi during the campaign, I mentioned and emphasized States' Rights and said that it was a matter that people were not then paying much attention to, but that it was a neglected matter and that in the future people would wring their hands and wish they had given it proper attention. I further said that this was one of the main reasons why I wanted to go to the United States Senate, in order to try to do something about States Rights. I did not think the other candidates emphasized this, not as much as I did anyway, and I know there was some criticism of me during the campaign to the effect that I was trying to scare people.

When President Truman's message on Civil Rights was delivered to the Senate, I read it at the Clerk's desk before it was read out on the Floor of the Senate, and within ten minutes thereafter I issued a statement to the press to the effect that this message was contrary to the interests of the South and that I would fight it to the last ditch and that there would be no compromise. That statement was not carried by the press in Mississippi, as I understand, but of course I could not control that.

Since that time I have been very active in my opposition to these Bills, have appeared before the Judiciary Committee in opposition to the Anti-Lynching Bill several times, have spoken twice on the radio against these Bills, and have led the fight before the Rules Committee in opposition to the Anti-Poll Tax Bill, handling all the witnesses for our side and cross-examining those of the other side.

I have also delivered a speech on this subject before the Senate, some copies of which I enclose, together with some comment made thereon by my colleagues here and a newspaper commentator.

I hope you will pardon my going into all this, but I am just trying to give you a picture of what I have been doing and I shall appreciate your passing this information on to others.

I appreciate very much your counsel and advice, and in the meantime you may rest assured that I shall be busy at all times and along the lines of work that I feel represent the interests and the wishes of the people of Mississippi. Our entire staff here in my office is wedded to the idea that we are working together for Mississippi, and I assure you that we will stick to that principle.

I shall be glad to have your advice and counsel and really appreciate your letter.

Very truly yours,

U. S. S.

Enclosure
JCS:VM