

3-11-1948

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, March 11-19, 1948

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ATTORNEY

HOUSTON 2, TEXAS

March 11-1948

Honorable James Stennis
U. S. Senator from Mississippi
Senate Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

allow me to quote these words:

"Not one white Southerner appeared before the committee"....

which I take from P. 64 of *Whither Solid South* (The Pelican Press, New Orleans). This statement follows more than an entire Page of detailed listing of organizations from the North - black and white - that had representatives or witnesses to appear before the committee then holding hearings on the infamous F. E. P. C. proposed legislation.

ATTORNEY

HOUSTON 2, TEXAS

I regret I am not able to appear before Congress, i.e., the Senate, to express my views on the equally infamous proposed anti-Poll tax measure, a newspaper article concerning which I enclose herewith.

Were I a member of the Congress it would not keep or prevent me from dropping that roll, long enough to, as an individual and not as an elected official, testify as to the facts which are not well known. One of these, frankly, is that many of our members of Congress have long since lost their - indeed, if they ever had such - sense of self-preservation. Negro agitators and white renegades, for example, who have stated their aims must be reached through "non violence" (so I have read), well know and intend, I believe and I state it as my opinion, plan and intend that violence will and must come, the violence of the Federal authorities and the army,

HOUSTON 2, TEXAS

which, I believe and state it to be my opinion, their pressure groups will press for, once either of the above referred to Proposed laws is passed.

Permit me, therefore, to now submit this letter to your good attention, here now authorizing and empowering you to be and act as my proxy, for me and in my stead, to have this letter presented to the Senate Committee at any hearing to be held on anti-poll tax legislation.

And should there be in the mind of any Senator, any question as to why I do not offer as an excuse that "we white Southerners" appears at such hearings, that perhaps they have lost their sense of self-preservation, a clear picture of the facts can be gleaned from the books I mentioned above, "Whither Solid South."

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
HOUSTON 2, TEXAS

Believe me, Sir, to be

Respectfully

William P. Longcope
(Ex Dgt-Maj., U. S. M. C.)

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

March 19, 1948

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Houston 2, Texas

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for your letter of March 11th with enclosures bearing on pending so-called Civil Rights Bills.

I note your reference to the book, "Whither Solid South," and have ordered one for my library.

Your advice and counsel are always welcome, and I hope you will continue to favor me with suggestions.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

U. S. S.

JCS:MVM