

6-29-1948

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, June 29-July 13, 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.

PICAYUNE, MISSISSIPPI

June 29, 1948

JUL 1 1948

Hon. James O. Eastland
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

Now that Governor Wright, through his leadership, has done a fine job in unhooking the traces from Truman's band wagon and Congress has been so very successful in preventing the legislation that was proposed by Truman being passed up to the present time, it occurs to me, as I am sure it does to a number of others, that the South is in a much better position now than heretofore to pave the way to bring about the much needed unity between the North and South. During the past sixteen years both parties have had an opportunity to observe the danger of permitting these conditions to continue to exist at a time that the world is suffering for the lack of the nations being able to solve their problems and become helpful to other nations in solving their problems as we are now undertaking to do.

The traditions of the South are deeply grounded and are so understood and recognized now by possibly every state in the Union. The passing of such legislation as is proposed and the dispensation of segregation would deprive the negro race in the South, and possibly some of the yellow race in the West, of obtaining that as satisfactory as they have under segregation. Since we now have in Dewey's running mate, Governor Warren, one who believes in states' rights, it seems to me that now is the time during the next two weeks or between this and the Democratic Convention, that a strong plea should be put in for states' rights, leaving it to such states as feel they can serve these people, such as the negro and the yellow race (meaning the Japs and Chinese of the West) but go ahead and let the states experiment that think they can handle it and let it go along gradually as Abraham Lincoln would have perhaps handled the slavery question had the South not seceded. If such steps are taken now to get the leading negroes from the Booker T. Washington Institute and the trustees of the leading negro colleges to send in their pleas, which I think could be obtained, it certainly should be helpful to Congress in handling these matters when this legislation is again presented, as until you build up a breastwork there, before you know it a lot of this legislation will slip in, and I can't see how you can afford to let this opportunity pass. Until this question is determined the negro's opportunity in the South cannot be all that it would be if each state in the South were given the right to determine for itself. The negroes would have more for their colleges and schools and a better show for their economic development, and they certainly can be shown, and the most of them now know, that they could make no use of what both parties have been proclaiming and promising in the last sixteen years and neither has delivered.

With personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

LOG:LM

Dictated but not read.

Cc: Senator John C. Stennis ✓
Governor Fielding L. Wright

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

ALBERT L. SEIDEL, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

July 3, 1948

[REDACTED]
Picayune, Mississippi

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

I appreciated your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy of your letter to Jim. The thoughts which you present are certainly worthy of serious comment.

The process which you suggest as to each state's handling this civil rights question is very much in accord with my thinking about the matter. The constant threat of these force laws is working to hamper the legitimate opportunities for advancement which would normally be open to the Negro in the South. I think some of the more responsible Negro leaders are beginning to realize this.

The strong commitments toward these force measures which have been made by Dewey and Warren do not make the outlook too much better for at least the coming two years in Congress. We are all hoping that General Eisenhower will allow the draft to proceed, giving us a strong international leader for peace as President, as well as one who shares some of our views on the states' rights issue.

With kind personal regards and good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

U. S. Senator

JCS/FBS/11

[REDACTED]
PICAYUNE, MISSISSIPPI

July 13, 1948

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

My dear Seantor:

I am in receipt of yours of the 3rd.

With Eisenhower out of the picture Truman is certain to be nominated. I guess the Southerners are now wondering where we go from here. I hope you fellows may have an opportunity in Congress to prevent some of the vicious legislation being passed which will evidently be pledged in the platform. I sometimes wonder if we have not sat too long. It is impossible on the presidential election year to change a platform.

Hoping that you fellows may be successful in warding off the passing of the bills that Truman recommends, I am

Very truly yours,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

LOC:LH

JUL 15 1948