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Memos, Mr. Cresswell, John C. Stennis, January 31-February 16, 1968

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WILLIAM H. HARPER, CHIEF OF STAFF
CHARLES J. KIRKON, CHIEF CLERK

32-Teams for Debate

United States Senate

January 31, 1968
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

TO: Senator Stennis

FROM: Mr. Cresswell

As you instructed, I have contacted the various offices of the Stennis' team as to arrangements for the debate for Thursday, February 1. Arrangements have been made as follows:

Senator Sparkman will be acting captain for the day and until 4 p.m.. He will be ready to speak and will speak unless some other member of the team prefers to speak. However, Senator Sparkman does have a commitment for 4 p.m. and will have to leave the Floor about that time.

Senator Talmadge will be available on Thursday and will be at the Floor during the afternoon and has been alerted to the fact that Senator Sparkman will have to leave at 4 p.m., and he is especially prepared to take over at that time. He is also prepared to speak as needed. Senator Talmadge has said that he has commitments for early next week and may be away on Tuesday our next day up.

Senator Smathers and Senator Jordan are the two members of the team who have not yet spoken. Senator Smathers is working on a speech, and I believe Senator Sparkman may have asked Jim Palmer to help Senator Smathers get one ready. If they get it ready, then Senator Smathers will be here and available to speak on Thursday, but this is subject to the speech material situation. As an alternative, Senator Smathers was going to speak to Senator Eastland about the Judiciary Committee Staff preparing something for him. Senator Smathers is a member of that Committee in any it is his time, and he is aware of the situation, but Senator Sparkman and Senator Talmadge both know that Senator Smathers may not have his material ready.

I have passed along to Senator Jordan the Senator's request that he make at least a short speech on Thursday but have no commitment. Senator Long has also been alerted that Thursday is our day. Senator Long will be here but of course he spoke last Monday, as did Senator Stennis.

The above is the team situation for Thursday, February 1.

ssj

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32 - Civil Rights
Teams for Debate
February 5, 1968
United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

MEMORANDUM
WILLIAM DONAHUE, CHIEF OF STAFF
CHARLES B. KIRBOW, CHIEF CLERK

TO: Senator Stennis

FROM: Mr. Cresswell

SUBJECT: Schedule for Tuesday, February 6, Civil Rights Debate

As Senator will recall, Senators Talmadge and Sparkman spoke last Thursday, and Senator Long was the last speaker prior to that date. Senator Smathers has not spoken at nor has Senator Jordan, for reasons with which the Senator is familiar. Senator Jordan has been present on most days and has asked some questions.

We had intended for Senator Smathers to speak first on Tuesday, February 6, and I had so notified his office. We also worked with Senator Sparkman about getting a speech for Senator Smathers and Senator Sparkman made Jim Palmer available for this purpose. Senator Smathers now has a speech, but he sent word to day that he could not speak early and wanted to speak later in the afternoon, but finally said that he would speak any time after 3:00 pm. His staff now understands that we have him down to speak soon after 3:00 pm. Therefore the schedule for Tuesday is as follows:

Senator Stennis will be the first speaker and will hold the floor beginning at the end of the morning on until shortly after 3:00 pm. Senator Talmadge will be on the floor with Senator Stennis during that period and will ask questions and will otherwise help out.

Senator Smathers will take the floor when Senator Stennis finishes shortly after 3:00 pm and is supposed to be prepared to speak until about 5:00 pm when the Senate has been in the habit of adjourning during this debate. Senator Long of Louisiana will be on the floor during this time to assist and ask questions as will Senator Sparkman during the latter part of the afternoon.

Senator Sparkman still has a little material left and we have asked him to stand by while Senator Smathers is speaking and to be prepared to speak up if the need arises after Senator Smathers. Senator Sparkman has spoken and is not anxious to speak Tuesday except if needed for the above purposes.

Senator Jordan will be on the floor most of the afternoon from about two on and although he does not have a speech he said he would ask some questions.

One matter that could enter into the picture is that Tuesday is the day that Senator Mansfield is rumored to present the

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United States Senate

Mansfield-Dirksen Compromise Proposal, and if so then that
will take up sometime and, of course, could call for some
discussion from our side.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

WILLIAM H. DARDEN, CHIEF CLERK
CHARLES B. KIRBOW, CHIEF CLERK

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32 -

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United States Senate February 13, 1968

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

MEMORANDUM
WILLIAM H. DARDEN, CHIEF OF STAFF
CHARLES B. KIRBOW, CHIEF CLERK

TO: Senator Stennis

FROM: Mr. Cresswell

Schedule for Senate Floor on Wednesday, February 14.

The Senate meets at 12:00 noon, and it is anticipated that the morning hour will last until at least 1:00 p.m..

The Stennis Team is on duty for the day. Senator Stennis is the principle speaker for our Team.

Senator Long will be here and is prepared to ask questions and even to speak some if necessary, although he does not really plan to make a speech and is not really prepared. Senator Talmadge will arrive from Georgia shortly after noon and should be able to be on the Floor by 2:00 p.m.. He does not have a speech, but he will be able to join in and carry on the debate, asking questions if they should be necessary. Senator Jordan will be here and has been alerted to be on the Floor to ask questions, etc.

Senator Smathers had been scheduled to speak, but his office notified us today that it is necessary for him to be in Florida, and he will not be here. Senator Sparkman is also away and will not be back until February 19.

Senator Ervin has sent word that he will be back from North Carolina and expects to be on the Floor tomorrow and should anything arise he will be able to help out as needed.

Stan Kinnitt was out of town today, and I did not get a chance to talk with him. However, I did talk with John Graves, who does not expect anything spectacular to develop on Wednesday. He does expect that there will be a quorum present and that Senator Mondale and other proponents of the Open Housing Amendment will still be making speeches in support of the Amendment; and as John put it, to prevent a motion to table. However, he has received no request from anyone for time to make a speech on any subject and seems very much in the dark on that aspect of matters.

In view of the fact that the Senate has not been in session for several days and the number of important events which have transpired in the world in the meantime, there is a good possibility that a good number of Senators will have speeches to make on various subjects and there will not be too much time left to devote to the Civil Rights debate and the Open Housing Amendment. Of course, this is mere speculation on my part. However, John Graves does say that it is expected that the Senate will adjourn about 5:00 p.m.

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United States Senate February 13, 1968

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

MEMORANDUM

WILLIAM H. DARDEN, CHIEF OF STAFF
CHARLES B. KIRBOW, CHIEF CLERK

There is some discussion among various Senators' offices that a cloture petition might be filed at the end of the week for a vote next week just to test sentiment. These are mere rumors and no one really seems to know anything on this subject.

In my opinion there is no certainty that a quorum will be present in the Senate on Wednesday should this question be raised.

Looking past Wednesday, our next day will be the following Monday, February 19, and we will be back to Senator Smathers again, and then Senator Talmadge, Long and Sparkman will be next.

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February 13, 1968

MEMORANDUM

CR Debate
STENNIS Team

TO: Senator Stennis

FROM: Mr. Cresswell

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Senator Ervin has sent word that he will be back from North Carolina and expects to be on the Floor tomorrow and should anything arise he will be able to help out as needed.

Stan Kimmitt was out of town today, and I did not get a chance to talk with him. However, I did talk with John Graves, who does not expect anything spectacular to develop on Wednesday. He does expect that there will be a quorum present and that Senator Mondale and other proponents of the Open Housing Amendment will still be making speeches in support of the Amendment; and as John put it, to prevent a motion to table. However, he has received no request from anyone for time to make a speech on any subject and seems very much in the dark on that aspect of matters.

In view of the fact that the Senate has not been in session for several days and the number of important events which have transpired in the world in the mean-time, there is a good possibility that a good number of Senators will have speeches to make on various subjects and there will not be too much time left to devote to the Civil Rights debate and the Open Housing Amendment. Of course, this is mere speculation on my part. However, John Graves does say that it is expected that the Senate will adjourn about 5:00 p.m.

See me

April 29, 1975

Honorable Stanley J. Pottinger
Attorney General for Civil Rights Division
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: 1975 primary and general elections in
Claiborne County, Mississippi



Dear Mr. Pottinger:

The 1975 Democratic primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 1975, with the second primary or run-off election to be held on August 26, 1975. On November 5, 1975, the general election is to be held.

On behalf of the Claiborne County Democratic Party, I hereby request that your office provide observers or poll watchers for each precinct in Claiborne County for the above-mentioned elections. The reason for this request is the likelihood that in the absence of Federal observers, the voting rights of our citizens will not be protected but will be abused.

Please give me a response to this request as soon as possible.

Yours very truly,



CHAIRMAN, CLAIBORNE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RDG

cc: Honorable James O. Eastland
Honorable John C. Stennis ✓
Honorable Thad Cochran

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 21, 1975

Honorable Stanley J. Pottinger
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
Department of Justice
550 11th Street, Todd Building
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Pottinger:

Mr. Robert D. Gage, Chairman of the Claiborne County, Mississippi, Democratic Executive Committee, has recently written you requesting that you provide observers or poll-watchers for each precinct in Claiborne County for the Democratic primary elections and the general election this year.

Mr. Gage bases his request on the likelihood that, in the absence of Federal observers, the voting rights of the citizens will not be protected but will be abused. I am generally familiar with the details of this matter, having discussed the problem with Mr. Gage and several other substantial citizens of Claiborne County some weeks ago.

Based on the information which I have received, I believe that Mr. Gage's request is thoroughly justified under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended. I, therefore, strongly urge that you respond favorably.

Sincerely,

JOHN C. STENNIS
United States Senator

JCS:kls