

7-1-1970

Senator Stennis Civil Rights Correspondence B03F17L02

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.

July 1, 1970

MEMORANDUM TO SENATOR STENNIS

From: Lester Fant

re: Tax deductability of gifts to private schools

The Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights under Law recently brought a suit to forbid the deductability of gifts to recently established private schools in Mississippi. Initially the Government defended the suit, but the indications now are that they are going to withdraw their opposition, and agree with the Lawyers Committee. Additionally, the President has recently said that he would make a statement on this subject, and the concensus of opinion is that he is going to say that gifts to these private schools are not tax deductible.

In my opinion, this position is untenable. In the first place, many private schools all over the country enjoy tax deductability, although they exclude persons for reasons of religion or sex. Almost all private schools were founded to exclude someone, at some time in the past. Also, Eastern prep type schools have discriminated notoriously, and now only integrate on a "token" basis, admitting carefully screened middle class black students.

If this is an issue that is important to you, I believe that I can prepare some materials that would be helpful to you. It might be that it can be treated the same way you have dealt with public schools in the north: By bringing attention to the difference in treatment in the North or South.

I will be happy to discuss this issue with you at your convenience.

IGF