

6-12-1954

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, July 12-17, 1954

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[REDACTED]
Gulfport, Mississippi

June 12, 1954

RECEIVED
JUN 15 1954
WASHINGTON

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

Dear Senator Stennis:

Although I did not see the television program on which you were interviewed regarding the Supreme Court decision on segregation in the public schools, I did read an account of it in the paper. I want you to know that I heartily approve of your replies to the questions asked you. I feel that you answered them most appropriately and in a manner that presents our side of the matter.

I am told that you mail out mimeographed sheets of information on happenings in Washington from time to time. I would appreciate being put on your mailing list.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Superintendent

WLR/a

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

June 17, 1954

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Gulfport, Mississippi

Dear Friend [REDACTED]

I certainly appreciate your letter of June 12th, and to know that my remarks and handling of the situation on the recent Man Of The Week program meet with your approval is an encouragement, I assure you. I took advantage of that opportunity to try to present to people over the nation outside the South just what our problem is, and to point out that we were trying to solve it in a reasonable way.

I am glad to add your name to our mailing list for the various releases we send out from time to time, and I regret that your name has not already been added. I am taking the liberty of sending you a copy of my recent report in which I discuss the Supreme Court decision.

I feel that our negroes will accept our leadership on some plan that can be worked out for the continuation of separate schools. Perhaps this can be done on a county basis through an unofficial organization in each county, made up of the school leaders and other leaders of each community. The plan outlined could then be presented to the negro leaders, in particular the teachers and ministers, and then it could be made clear that this is the plan of cooperation and that the negroes will have better schools - but that of course the schools must continue separate. I believe this is the sound approach and that public sentiment of the white and the colored people who favor separate schools can force others who do not into line. I do feel that a great deal depends on our leadership in this direction.

With all good wishes and looking forward to hearing from you from time to time, I am

Your friend,

John Stennis
United States Senator