

6-15-1954

**Correspondence, John C. Stennis. James O. Eastland, May  
27-June 16, 1954**

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*Resolution of Thanks  
re Segregation*

RECEIVED  
JUN 15 1954  
WASHINGTON

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court recently rendered its momentous decision banning segregation in the Public Schools of the nation, in a decision which we regard as unsound, unwise and totally lacking in practical common sense and we feel that this decision was a clear usurpation of the powers and rights of both Congress and of the sovereign states, and we further feel that the decision was purely political, based on no sound reasoning or legal precedent, and contrary to the wishes of a vast majority of the citizens of both races, and injurious to their best interests; and

WHEREAS, Senators James O. Eastland and John Stennis of Mississippi, have each publicly condemned this decision, and have stated publicly that they will work with the people of Mississippi to insure that segregation shall not be abolished in the public Schools of Mississippi, and Senator Eastland in a brilliant speech on the floor of the United States Senate courageously denounced this decision, and the biased and political court which rendered it, on Thursday, May 27th, 1954; and we feel that our Senators are entitled to commendation and praise for their courageous and sound attitude, and to the support of every right thinking citizen in the course they have adopted and the leadership they have shown;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE Exchange Club of Cleveland, Mississippi, that we extend our thanks and congratulations to Senators Eastland and Stennis for their sound and courageous attitude in this matter and pledge to them our unstinted and loyal support in the fight to preserve segregation in Mississippi, and to maintain the racial integrity of both races in this State.

Further resolved that a copy of this resolution be spread upon our minutes, a copy mailed by the Secretary to each Senator and a copy be made available to the Press.

Unanimously adopted on this the 27th day of May, 1954

Stanley Child

LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, MASS., CHAIRMAN  
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PHILIP K. ALLEN, CHIEF CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

June 16, 1954

[REDACTED]  
President

[REDACTED]  
Cleveland, Mississippi

Dear [REDACTED]

Let me acknowledge with special thanks the copy of the Resolution to Senator Eastland and me from your Exchange Club. Your expression of approval and endorsement is certainly a great encouragement in our efforts here and I deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness.

I feel that our negroes will accept our leadership on this grave situation and that we can work out a plan, perhaps through an unofficial organization in each county, which will provide for separate schools for the two races. This organization could be made up of the school leaders and other leaders from each community in the county and they could take the plan outlined to the negro leaders, especially the teachers and ministers, and make it clear that this is the plan of cooperation and that they will have better schools - but that the schools of course must continue to be separate. I believe that this is the sound approach and that public opinion of the white and colored people who favor separate schools will force others into line. I do feel that a great deal depends on our leadership in this direction.

Always let me hear from you and your organization on any matter in which you are interested. Your recommendations will be appreciated and will be helpful to me in my thinking here. I am still having many pleasant thoughts of my visit with your Club last fall and greatly appreciated that opportunity to meet with you.

Again thanking you and with all good wishes, I

am

Cordially your friend,

John Stennis  
United States Senator

Enc.