

6-7-1954

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, June 7-18, 1954

The office of Senator John C. Stennis

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WASHINGTON

Union, Miss
June 7, 1954

Hon. John C. Stennis
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C.
Dear Senator:

I am enclosing herewith an article written by a negro father. Porbably you have seen this but for fear you have not I am mailing to you because I think it is very good and shows that there are some negroes who are proud of their race and really interested in the welfare of their children.

May I ask your candid opinion on the following thought. We know that the NAACP has reached the point to where it is a very strong national organization and able to influence the thinking of the National Government. This is the fruits of the nickels, dimes and quarters donated into the organization over the past few years by the negroes, and we may rest assured that when they succeed in establishing their children in the white schools they are not going to stop. The leaders must keep on trying something new in order that they might keep the negroes donating in order that they will be able to keep and hold their elevated and high paying position in the organization. Their next move will be to enter the Hotels, Restaurants Etc. also our churches and Christian schools, and on and on and on and where they will stop no one knows.

We must do something to fight this move and it will take money to do it. Why cannot the white people formulate an organization give it some name (Suggest National Association For The Preservation of the White Race NAPWR) and get the people to support this organization and accumulate a fund whereby we may be able to fight back.

This may sound foolish to men of your standing, but I would appreciate your candid opinion and if this movement would be approved by leaders of the south possibly some one of prominence would take over and organize.

Sincerely,



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

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

June 18, 1954

[REDACTED]
Union, Mississippi

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Your letter with the enclosure was one of the best suggestions that I have had on this important subject, and your predictions are all too true.

I think that you are on the right track in your thinking, but it appears to me that as to this particular subject we are going to have to handle it from a local standpoint rather than a national association. I believe your idea is sound on this problem at the county level, or from a county-wide standpoint of organization. To that end I have suggested that the thinking white people in each county get together and decide on just what school plan they wanted, and then lead the colored people into their line of thinking on this subject. If we let outside negro leaders come in and lead our negroes astray, then we can blame ourselves, because as I see it, the most of our negroes will look to us for leadership first. Of course all of them will not, but we can have public opinion so strong among our white people and a firm opinion among our negro people to go along with us, that the combined public opinion under the two races will force the other negroes into line.

Under the rulings of the Court, which are wrong but are nevertheless final rulings, we have virtually no chance to win in court with the negro on this subject. We can have voluntary organizations, though, and lead them, especially at the county level, and this is what I advocate. One reason that I think it must be on a county level basis is because the situation is so different from one county to another.

I am keeping your letter here, together with the newspaper clipping, and am showing it to some of my colleagues with effect.

With best wishes and again thanking you, I am

Your friend,

John Stennis,
United States Senator

JCS/eh