

6-6-1948

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, June 6-15, 1954

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JUN 8 1954

WASHINGTON

June 6, 1954

Hon. John C. Stennis
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator:

Today I listened to your discussion of segregation in the Southern schools. You are very right in what you have to say concerning racial differences. I teach in a high school where many Negro youngsters attend. Some are very good students; others are stupid; those that are stupid are a minority.

Discipline is a terrific problem. A teacher dare not put a hand on one. The white youngsters profit by the situation and the teacher has a very rough time of it. We have a policeman close at hand at all times.

So there is a huge psychological problem, for these youngsters branded by a sense of inferiority carry a "chip on the shoulder" and are difficult. Maybe no child should be born with this stigma? I pity the teachers who will have half white and half colored youngsters in their classes.

Should you have the two races together, I suggest there be colored teachers for colored kids and that all the hardship of this "reconstruction agony" be not put upon teachers!

In another generation, or so, having the
two races in one class room may work out
all right. The white youngsters do very well
and have a sincere regard for the Negro
Colored "kids". They are far ahead of us of
an older generation in accepting all races as
equal.

I am glad to hear Southern leaders
express themselves.

Yours truly,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address line 1]

[Redacted address line 2]

37. Segregation

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United States Senate

PHILIP K. ALLEN, CHIEF CLERK

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

June 15, 1954

[REDACTED]

Chicago, Illinois

Dear Miss [REDACTED]

I certainly appreciate having your fine letter of June 6 and knowing that you approved of my recent T. V. Address on "Man-of-the-Week."

I agree wholeheartedly with you that the teacher's problems are aspects of this situation which have been neglected by the majority of the people and I fully realize that the problems created for the teachers are just as serious as those created for the students. As you know, I believe that the situation must be worked out in each section of our country according to local popular opinion and no single solution can be applied to the entire nation or even to a state. It is good to know that this problem is not limited to the Southern area of our nation. Although in some ways our situation is different from yours, I thoroughly sympathize with you.

It is my primary aim to secure the best possible education for both negro and white children, and it is toward this end that I work. In our state, however, I feel that any move to integrate the races at this time would work to the harm of both.

I certainly appreciate having your opinion and hope you will write me again.

Sincerely yours,

John Stennis
United States Senator

J.H.S.: lly