

2-20-1948

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, February 20-26, 1948

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2-20-48

Dear Senator:

Stop fooling yourself -
we do need an anti-lynching
law. It would punish only
those who break it. The
Negro has no redress in
the local courts, and it
is time that this democracy
give them some protection.

Sooner or later we will have
such a law anyway.

Respectfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Louisville (8) Ky

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

February 23, 1948

Anti-Lynching

Mr. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Louisville 8, Kentucky

Dear Sir:

You, apparently, do not understand the proposed Bill on lynching. It would not punish, as you say, "only those who break it." It would punish every citizen in your county and state whether you actually have anything to do with it or not. That is hard, perhaps, for you to believe. Get the Bill and read it.

Lynching is a form of murder. All states have laws against murder. It is up to you to enforce your local laws; otherwise you are going to lose many of your Freedoms, regardless of race. This Bill is a political wedge designed to open the door for the breaking down of States' Rights guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States. I am opposed to all such Bills.

Yours truly,

John C. Stennis,
U. S. S.

JCS:MVM

Hon. Senator:

February 26, 1948

Thank you for your letter of February 23.
However I must disagree with you.
When a state is unable to give
protection of life and property to its
citizens, the Federal government
should step in.

The South foolishly opposed
slavery once even when it was
demonstrated to be economically
unsound. Similarly, the South is
penalizing itself by keeping the
Negro uneducated, poverty-stricken
and downtrodden.

Respectfully,

P
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Louisville (8) Ky