

9-18-1973

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, September 18-26, 1973

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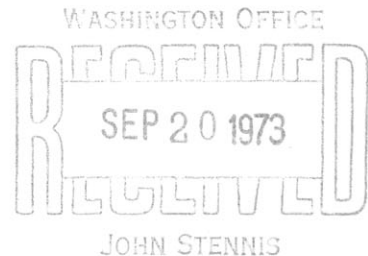
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September 18, 1973

Senator John Stennis
205 Russell Senate Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510



Dear Mr. Stennis,

First of all, let me say in advance, I know this letter really won't do any good to anyone but me, and it will only do me good as long as it takes me to write it. Also, let me say, I'm not crying for pity, I am a divorced woman, with two elementary school age children. I have one in the first grade (age 6) and one in the fourth (age 8). I live alone with the two children, I stay at home with them at night, and I don't do many of the things people think divorced women do. I try to teach them right from wrong, I try to give them a good home, the best I can offer. My income is just a little over \$6,000.00 per year, so before I tell you my problem, please don't tell me to move to another neighborhood. This is the best I can afford right now. I do have food-clothes-doctor bills and dentist bills. I work 8 1/2 hours a day , 5 days a week and 4 hour every other Saturday, so don't tell me to try and hold down another job, so I can afford a private school for them, I pay my taxes as every one else does and I feel I am entitled to let my children attend public schools, and this is the biggest problem I think I have ever had. This year I'm okay, my children both go to the same school, I leave them there at 7:30 AM, which is early but the only thing I can do, since I have to be at my job at 8:00 AM, school is out at 2:00, a very good nursery picks them up at that time, and keeps them until I can pick them up at 5:45 PM. The school they attend, at one time, went through the 6th grade. I chose this neighborhood, thinking by the time, they were through at that school, I could afford something better and they would not have to be bussed. Last year the school broke, and now only goes through the fourth grade. So next September, I'll have one going to school from 8 - 2 and one going from 9 - 3. Sure a bus comes by 3 blocks away, and I have to leave at 7:30 in the mornings, the bus comes at 8:30, the bus comes back at 3:30 in the afternoon., so what's my child to do from 7:30 to 8:30 and from 3:30 to 5:45 ? Stay by himself--throw rocks at cars-- get hurt? Does any one care? The nursery can't pick up at that time, I have no one else to depend on, I can't leave my job at that time of the afternoon, so I'm stuck. The only solution I can come up with is this--Quit my job, and get on welfare, so I can transfer my children all over town, so they can go to school, but I can't even do that, "cause my face ain't Black". So I'll just have to make out the best I can.

(2)

I think it is ridiculous that a person cannot send her child to school in their own neighborhood. NOW WHAT CAN YOU DO? WHERE CAN I FIND AN ANSWER"? I've got to the point, that I can't even see wasting my time to go down and vote, because when you vote for the #1 candidate, and they go into office, I think a cat must get their tongues, because nothing ever seems to change to make things better, it's getting from bad to worse-- The people in Mississippi are hurting--but it's the small children who are hurting more than anyone (black and white) no one seems to care, they are just to be thrown to place to place, from school to school, just so we can satisfy the people who think bussing is the answer to equal rights, the children , are getting no rights at all, they don't even have the right to attend their neighborhood school.. Who is that being fare to-not to the children, that's for sure. It makes me sick on my stomach to look and see what the State, and the whole country is coming to, and no one can help. Most of my friends and neighbors feel the same as I, but does not even try to do any thing , because they feel their efforts are useless, and I'm sorry to say I feel the same way. So, what can Mississippi do, to protect their children?

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Jackson, Miss 39212

Phone- [REDACTED]

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 26, 1973

T. EDWARD BRASWELL, JR., CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

Mrs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Jackson, Mississippi 39212

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the difficulties the children of our State face because of the school situation. Certainly the education of our young people is of vital importance.

I do not know of anyone who has worked harder or longer than I have in trying to insure that our children receive the highest quality education possible with the least inconvenience to their parents. Unfortunately, some school districts have been forced by the federal courts to institute plans which take into account neither the quality of the education nor the welfare of the children despite my strong objections. Therefore, I am continuing to work diligently to secure a more reasonable attitude from federal officials and to help to revise these irresponsible plans.

With warm good wishes, I am

Your friend,

JOHN C. STENNIS
United States Senator

JCS:hs