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## Senator Stennis Civil Rights Correspondence B03F35L01

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# COPY

September 5, 1962

Mr. [REDACTED]  
Circuit Clerk  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Dear [REDACTED]:

The outside influences which seek to upset and destroy our traditional way of life in Mississippi are increasingly aggressive and determined. They apparently will not be satisfied until they have made every effort to conform us to their own distasteful pattern.

Since there is a mis-called "civil rights" legal action pending in your county, I am writing you this special letter to let you know that I am standing beside you in resisting this encroachment on Mississippi's sovereignty to the last ditch.

You are adequately and ably represented by Attorney General Joe Patterson and his staff. You may also have capable local counsel. However, I do want to stress and emphasize my personal concern and distress over this situation and to assure you again that I stand ready and willing to help you in any manner possible.

Therefore, if I can assist you in any way, or if I can obtain any information for you, I am counting on you to let me know. Since I have worked with county officials for many years as District Attorney and Circuit Judge, I can fully understand the pressures you are under and the difficult problems with which you are faced.

You are to be commended for your faithful service and for your dedication to our traditions in the face of almost overwhelming pressure. I shall do the best I can in my position to support you.

Sincerely,

John Stennis  
United States Senator