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Correspondence, John C. Stennis, March 11-April 29, 1965

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Supreme Court of Mississippi

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ASSOCIATE JUSTICES



Jackson, Mississippi

RECEIVED
SEP 20 1952
WASHINGTON

September 18, 1952.

Honorable John C. Stennis,
Washington, D. C.

Dear John,

This excerpt from yesterday's Daily News is interesting. It shows on the same page the acquittal of a negro for rape, the conviction of a white man, and the deplorable condition in New York where sex crimes seem to be almost routine.

It may have a place in your files against the day when legislation is proposed ^{as to} ~~against~~ anti-lynching.

Of course, neither you nor I have any defense of lynchings, but it seems always to be overlooked by the Northerner that the victim in a rape case is a white woman who is as entitled to 'civil rights' and protection. She is an innocent victim, while the rapist is a guilty victim. The public outrage against the sex crimes in New York is a manifestation of the same spirit of the mob, though the latter is unlawfully manifested. Why not a law to punish the chief of police or sheriff who 'permits' raping to occur?

If the comments are not useful, this is at least an occasion to express again my best wishes.

Cordially yours,

Julian P. A.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

CHARLES B. KIRBOW, CHIEF CLERK

April 29, 1965

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Gulfport, Mississippi

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you very much for your letter and for your invitation to visit with you when I am in your area.

As to the question of whether or not there is a law against inciting to riot, the answer is yes, there is. I believe, however, it would be held that Martin Luther King and his demonstrators were attempting a peaceful demonstration rather than a riot. Whether this is true depends upon the facts of the particular situation. However, in view of the attitude at the present toward such activities, it is highly unlikely that they would be classified as a riot as that term would generally be understood under the statute.

I am not familiar with the statements of New York Congressman Adam Clayton Powell in regard to his libel suit. However, a number of cocktail parties have been held in the Washington area, to which each of those attending contributed \$100.00 for the purpose of paying off the judgment against Congressman Powell.

It is always good to hear from you.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Stennis
United States Senator

JS:sh