

5-11-1948

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, May 11-17, 1948

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[REDACTED]
ATTORNEY AT LAW
GREENWOOD, MISS.

May 11, 1948

*Dear friend Reed:
Special
thanks for
encouragement.*

Hon. John C. Stennis
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have received and have read with a very great deal of pleasure your views accompanying the Report on the Anti-Poll Tax Bill (H.R. 29). I wish to commend you most highly for the position you have taken in the expression of your views on this subject, as well for the clear and understandable expression of your thoughts as for the conclusion you have reached. It is a fine piece of work, and I trust that it will be given the reception to which it is entitled.

Congress has no more power to legislate concerning the payment of poll tax as a qualification of voters in Federal elections than they have to legislate concerning other qualifications of voters in such elections. If Congress can outlaw the qualification of payment of poll tax, then they can legislate concerning the other usual qualifications of age, residence, education and such, and, in a positive manner, can make additional requirements suiting the Congress and the President. The dangers of such action need only be mentioned in order to see the destructive result which would be obtained by such action.

The most deplorable feature of the situation to me is that the advocates of the Anti-Poll Tax Bill, and of the other so-called "Civil Rights", are acting only from a politically selfish basis, are attempting to emasculate our Constitution in order to appeal for additional votes, and are not acting from a sincere desire to right a wrong or eradicate an evil. We are depending on you, and our other good Mississippians, to fight the good fight and protect our Constitution from such politically expedient assaults.

With every best wish to you, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

MAY 14 1948

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

May 17, 1948

Mr. [REDACTED]
Whittington Building
Greenwood, Mississippi

Dear Friend [REDACTED]:

This will acknowledge with thanks your good letter of May 11th.

I deeply appreciate your understanding of my point of view, and want you to know that your letter is most encouraging. Through these difficult times the loyal attitude of my friends has been a great source of strength in this fight to protect our Southern way of life.

Thank you for letting me have your views, and I hope you will write to me from time to time on current matters. Your advice and counsel will always be helpful.

With kind regards and every good wish to you, I am

Sincerely yours,

U. S. Senator

JCS:AR:g

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Anti-Poll