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Senator Stennis Civil Rights Correspondence B03F33L11

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U.S. SENATE - OFFICIAL

WASHINGTON, D. C.
SEPTEMBER 9, 1961

GROUP TELEGRAM
OFFICIAL - STRAIGHT WIRE

MESSAGE:

HAVE NOT SEEN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION LATEST REPORT, BUT UNDERSTAND COMMISSION RECOMMENDS CONGRESS AUTHORIZE QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS WITH ONLY SIXTH GRADE EDUCATION. MY REACTION TO THIS RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWS:

THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION WAS TO BE A FACT-FINDING GROUP, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD ~~KK~~ TO ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AND CONDITIONS. TO BE MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONGRESS REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS IS ENTIRELY BEYOND THE PROVINCE OF THE COMMISSION. REGARDLESS, THE MATTER OF VOTER QUALIFICATIONS IS STRICTLY AND EXPRESSLY RESERVED TO THE STATES UNDER CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS WHICH HAVE ~~AND HAS~~ ALWAYS BEEN FOLLOWED EVEN THOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTS TO GET CONTRARY LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL INTERPRETATIONS. THIS IS ANOTHER OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF ~~THE~~^{RECKLESS} EFFORTS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION TO REWRITE ALL ELECTION LAWS.

REGARDS.

JOHN STENNIS
UNITED STATES SENATOR

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