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Senator Stennis Civil Rights Correspondence B03F24L03

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United States Senate

May 11, 1949
COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

33
anti Poll Tax

Memorandum to: Frank Smith
From: Senator
Subject: Anti-poll Tax Bill

I anticipate a possible hearing on the Anti-poll Tax Bill, and also a debate thereon. I wish you would please accumulate for me and place in my hands data on the following phases of this subject:

1. The actual debates on the suffrage clause as reflected in the writings concerning the Constitutional Convention, as well as any other than current references to the subject.
2. The complete history of the poll tax in each of the thirteen original colonies, and the status thereof at the time of the adoption of the Constitution.
3. The chronological development and extension of this tax in other states of the Nation subsequent to the Constitutional Convention.
4. Examine the debates on the subject of last July, and prior debates, and pick out pertinent and applicable points.

In selecting all of this material keep in mind that I want it not only for reference for possible use in debate, but also so that I may have a full background for information thereon in order to answer questions concerning any point, and also to have it as a ready reference.

I want the most exhaustive collection of material on this subject as you can gather. I was woefully short, and felt it keenly, of material and information regarding the Senate Rules, particularly the Cloture Rule during the recent debates.