

2-17-1972

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, February 17-25, 1972

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Jackson, Mississippi, February 17, 1972

The Honorable John C. Stennis
United States Senate
Washington D. C.

Dear Senator Stennis:

It appears that new campaign trails are being opened every day now and much is being said both pro and con in regard to present court ordered "busing to achieve racial balance".

Sir, last year you encouraged me to have patience when I corresponded with you outlining my concern about my daughter being bused approximately 9 miles across Jackson to attend school in the 10th grade in a formerly all Black school located deep within an all Black neighborhood.

Instead of having racial balance in that school the present enrollment is seven Blacks to 3 Whites. Under this ratio some white students and faculty members are being harassed by Blacks to the extent there is enough fear by those being harassed they will not give identification. They are afraid if they do so they will be attacked if caught alone. My daughter attends class every day actually afraid of receiving bodily harm.

Senator, I will not ask you to believe what I have just written because it is unbelievable that children in our America are subjected to such fear and harassment in order to become educated and prepare themselves to be good and self-supporting citizens. I will however enclose herewith a copy of memorandum dated February 14, 1972 from the Principal of that school to the students.

Would you believe Sir that in order to even continue uninterrupted classes it is necessary for police and plainclothesmen to be in the building, and will remain until it is felt their presents is no longer needed?

These past three years have in no way achieved racial balance. The educational processes have been disrupted and fires of fear, hate and untrust have been kindled in the hearts of young citizens that in my opinion will take years to die out if no further fuel is added.

I have been patient Sir. Now I again call upon you to use all of your influence and great leadership to see that proper legislation is passed, Executive Order issued or Constitutional ammendment is enacted to enable the children of this Nation to again attend the schools in their neighborhood so they might develop a loyalty to their school and with help from the leaders of our Nation perhaps loyalty to our Country might return in this very young generation.

Jackson Mississippi, February 17, 1972

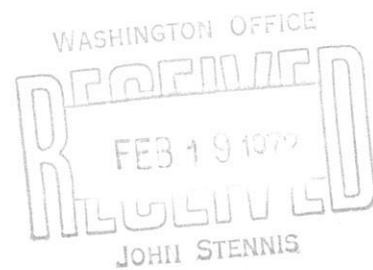
Sir, if any of your distinguished Colleagues doubt this could happen in the state they represent, invite them to open their eyes and visit these schools to see for themselves.

You must agree, if relief to these problems is not obtained this election year, many years of continued disruption and degeneration of our public schools are ahead.

I will be looking forward to hearing from you again.

Yours very truly

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Jackson, Mississippi 39211



JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 25, 1972

Mr. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Jackson, Mississippi 39211

Dear [REDACTED]:

This will thank you for your most recent letter with reference to the problems in the Jackson City Schools.

I have no doubt whatsoever that every word of what you wrote is true. As I told you last year, the only way we will ever be able to get a modification on this present deplorable policy will be for the situation to be brought home to the North. We are now seeing disruptions in Northern schools and the result has been a nationwide debate on this issue. The Senate is currently considering amendments to a multi-billion dollar education bill which would prohibit the busing of school students to achieve a set racial quota. Unfortunately a great many of my Norther and Eastern colleagues are looking for a way out and it appears that there will be a great deal of language outlawing busing, the end result of which will be the continuation of the present policy. We may have more luck but the outlook is grim at the present time.

I do want to assure you that I will continue to work on this problem. We are making some headway but just not enough yet.

Again may appreciation for your letter and with warm good wishes, I am

Your friend,

John C. Stennis
United States Senator

JCS/hsh