

9-4-1969

## Correspondence, John C. Stennis, September 4-17, 1969

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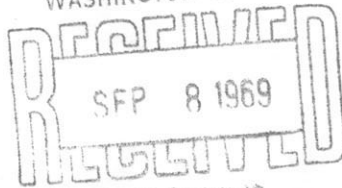
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WASHINGTON OFFICE



JOHN STENNIS

[REDACTED]  
Meridian, Mississippi  
September 4, 1969

The Honorable John C. Stennis  
United States Senator  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Stennis:

Thank you for your kind acknowledgment of my previous letter regarding the school guidelines outlined by HEW.

It would not be possible to adequately express with words my appreciation for the delay which has been granted the schools of our district in submitting plans to the courts that would in effect destroy the public school system in Mississippi.

The efforts you have exerted in this struggle to save the public school system are gratefully appreciated, and each day hundreds of fellow Mississippians are voicing this same appreciation.

Our sincere hope and prayer is that this legal struggle may be continued and that the Whitten amendments may now be approved by the Senate.

If there is any assistance that I might render as an interested citizen and school patron, please let me hear from you.

Respectfully yours,  
[REDACTED]

CW/cb

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Y

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS., CHAIRMAN

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

T. EDWARD BRASWELL, JR., CHIEF OF STAFF

29-c  
General  
(unofficial)

September 17, 1969

[REDACTED]  
P. O. Box 1891  
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear [REDACTED]:

This is a special word of thanks for your comments on my work to preserve the public schools in Mississippi. I am pleased that Secretary Finch and Attorney General Mitchell asked for a delay and that the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals approved it in the case of your school district. I hope that this action will mean the retention of freedom of choice for at least this year.

I am strongly supporting and sponsoring in the Senate the section of the HEW Appropriation Bill known as the Whitten Amendment, which provides that no part of the funds contained in the appropriation may be used to force any student to attend a particular school against the choice of his parents or to force the attendance of students at a particular school as a condition precedent to obtaining federal funds otherwise available to any state, school district, or school.

I also have introduced a bill in the Senate which would call the hand of those who are forcing integration in the South to the point where our public schools are being destroyed while the federal government sits idly by in the North although many schools in that area are almost completely segregated in fact, but not by law. This bill would force HEW and the Justice Department to move against segregation in the North with the same force being used in the South. If these harsh demands were made in other areas of the country, public sentiment in those areas would build up against such actions and we could get the support and help of Congressmen and Senators from those areas.

In addition, at the proper time I shall introduce an amendment to the HEW and Justice Department Appropriations bills to prevent the use of federal money to force integration in the South until an equal effort is made in the North.

# COPY

September 17, 1969

Page 2.

I can assure you that I will leave no stone unturned in my continued efforts to bring about a more practical approach to this problem through conferences with the President and other officials, legislation, attempts to get practical sensible men appointed to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court and any other course available to me.

With best wishes and warm regards, I am

Your friend,

John Stennis  
United States Senator

JS/hr  
enclosures