

8-13-1969

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, James O. Eastland, August 13-28, 1969

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August 13, 1969

Honorable James O. Eastland
Honorable John Stennis
Senate Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

By continually re-electing you to the U. S. Senate, the people of Mississippi have proved that we have confidence that you can represent us in Washington and will to the best of your ability.

Our schools are being torn apart by a branch of the government that does not have the power to make the laws. Under the present rule, there is no way for our young people of Mississippi or the South, for that matter, to get an education.

Our Representatives in Congress have already gotten a bill passed through the House against bussing students and for a freedom of choice plan of attending school. We believe with your seniority and support it can also pass the Senate.

We, the voters of Mississippi, are wondering why our Senators and Congressmen who make the laws are not making any effort to stop appointed government representatives from completely destroying our free democracy. There is on record "appeals" from both black and white as to forced intergration instead of freedom of choice as each individual desires.

Ninety-nine percent of the white and ninety-two percent of the colored people in Lauderdale County want freedom of choice, and we see no reason to sacrifice our children to appease a few politicians.

We cannot afford the extra tax burden that will be placed on us to change the present system of transporting students from one side of the county to the other.

We believe, with the respect your office warrants, something can be done to stop HEW from interfering with the schools.

Respectively yours,



JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 28, 1969

[REDACTED]
DeKalb, Mississippi 39328

Dear [REDACTED]:

You wrote me a very fine letter indeed under date of August 13th and I appreciate it very much.

You need not doubt that I have been most active and most vigorous here on our school problems and from the time President Nixon came into office I worked with special emphasis from there on as to him, [REDACTED], and the Attorney General, and am very glad indeed that the position of the Government was at least altered some in connection with the 33 cases in South Mississippi. This did not just happen. I do not claim all the credit, you understand, but I know I was felt to a degree. This gives us a chance now to make a new start and I am leaving no stone unturned and will not in the future, and I think that now there is a fairly good chance to get the decision of the Court of Appeals in New Orleans, as well as the Supreme Court of the United States changed in a substantial way through the new members of that Court.

I will not go into detail further of what I have done, but I can assure you I have been quite active indeed and expect to continue to, and I need and appreciate and will be helped by your continued interest and encouragement.

I spent a week in Kemper but stayed on the telephone all the time in connection with these school cases and the hurricane, and had the privilege of having seven different school boards in our area of the State in my office.

With regards and very best wishes, I am

Your friend,

John Stennis
United States Senator

JS:eh