

1-5-1967

Letter from John C. Stennis, January 5, 1967

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

January 5, 1967

Commissioner of Education
Department of Health, Education and Welfare

Washington, D.C.

Dear Commissioner:

I notice from the press that your office recently released statistics showing that 16.9 percent of the Negro pupils are attending desegregated schools in the South, as compared with 7.5 percent in 1965. I would appreciate it very much if you would furnish me a state by state breakdown of these figures for both years. I would like also to receive the comparable statistics for states outside the South, including the District of Columbia, and the figures for 1965 and 1966 which show the percentage of white pupils attending desegregated schools in each state and the District of Columbia.

I would be grateful if you would furnish me the following information as well:

1. What kind of reports (as distinguished from assurances of compliance) are schools outside the South required to submit to the Office of Education to establish or maintain their eligibility to receive federal assistance? How often must these reports be made. What is the practice and procedure for review and verification of these reports?
2. How many and which schools outside the South have had their funds denied, deferred, or terminated under the Civil Rights Act of 1964? How many and which schools outside the South have been required to make changes in their administration or operation to avoid a cut-off of funds under the Civil Rights Act? Are there any schools outside the South which are not in compliance with the Civil Rights Act? Are there any schools outside the South which do not meet the requirements of the same "Guidelines" which are applied to schools within the South. If so, how many? Are there any schools outside the South with an all white or an all Negro enrollment? If so, how many?

2-Commissioner [REDACTED] 1/5/67

3. How large is your present staff? How many of this number, in the field or in Washington, devote their time primarily to enforcement of the Civil Rights Act in the South, and how many to states outside the South? How much larger staff and what additional appropriation would be needed to give the same degree of attention to schools outside the South as is now given to Southern schools?

[REDACTED]
Sincerely yours,

John Stennis
United States Senator

JS/mp