

7-9-1969

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, July 9-22, 1969

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Mississippi Association of School
Administrators

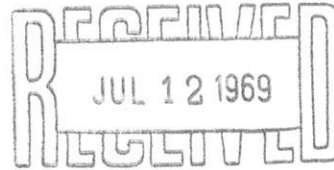
UNION, MISSISSIPPI 39365

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

July 9, 1969

WASHINGTON OFFICE

Hon. John C. Stennis
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.



JOHN STENNIS

Dear Senator Stennis:

I have been following your activities, as you represent us there in Washington, with interest, and I wish to express to you a sincere thanks for the many ways you are so competently performing your job as a Senator. As I watched the program Issues and Answers on television Sunday, it made me happy to know that you are our Senator and that you are serving our Nation so well.

Senator Stennis, because of your interest, ability, and influence, I feel compelled to write you requesting your assistance in a matter that is of the most vital concern to myself and to many school administrators throughout our state. I am referring to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and to the method of enforcement by the department of H.E.W. and the courts.

The school boards and administrators of our state are interested in promoting a quality education program for our young people, but are being prevented from doing this in many instances, because of the desegregation question. The department of H.E.W. requirements for compliance are now such that it is most difficult for a school board to comply with them, and those sent to enforce these requirements appear to have no conception or concern for the problems confronting us.

Because of the above mentioned problem, I would like to present to you some suggestions that would be helpful to us.

1. Efforts be made in Congress to change the guidelines used in implementing the Civil Rights Acts of 1964.
2. That educators and personnel who understand our problems be used to implement guidelines use in determining compliance.
3. An effort be made to employ some personnel from our region in the U. S. Office of Education.
4. That the guidelines be applied to all states and not just the designated Southern States.

I am aware of the fact that you have already advocated some of these suggestions and we want to encourage you to continue these causes for us. You can be assured that we are most appreciative of your efforts on our behalf and we offer you our assistance in any way possible.

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Mississippi Association of School
Administrators



UNION, MISSISSIPPI 39365

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:



I plan to be in Washington on the 21 or 22 of July, and if you have the time, I would like to talk with you more in detail about these problems.

Sincerely yours,



President, Mississippi Association
of School Administrators

HSH:bj

29-School
Guidelines
General

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

T. EDWARD BRASWELL, JR., CHIEF OF STAFF

July 22, 1969

[REDACTED]
Mississippi Association of School Administrators

[REDACTED]
Union, Mississippi 39365

Dear [REDACTED]:

I appreciate your recent letter regarding the problems facing our schools in Mississippi. I do hope that we will be able to get together to discuss this when you are here in Washington. As you know, I am always open for suggestions as to what I can do to further assist in this unfortunate situation.

I was greatly disappointed that the recent revision of the Guidelines did not go further. Frankly, in view of my repeated conferences with President Nixon, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Finch, Attorney General Mitchell and others, I had expected much more of a modification; but as you know in the administration and here in Congress we who are interested in the preservation of our public education system are simply outnumbered by those who would let our schools be destroyed in order to promote their Civil Rights reforms.

In spite of the recent rulings of the Supreme Court and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals which have gone far beyond anything required or contemplated by the Constitution or by the law enacted by the Congress, I believe that we will have to look to these courts for more understanding of the problems of education, application of reasonable and workable guidelines, and a better use of the discretion that is vested in them by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. I am continuing to work for the appointment of practical and sensible men to fill the vacancies on the Fifth Circuit Court and to try to impress upon the minds of the President and other officials here in Washington that we need some immediate relief before our public education system is destroyed.

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS., CHAIRMAN

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 22, 1969

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I am leaving no stone unturned in an effort to bring about a more practical approach to this problem. Your suggestions and assistance will be most helpful to me. Looking forward to seeing you, I am

Your friend,

John Stennis
United States Senator

JS/bt