

2-16-1965

Letter, John C. Stennis, Lyndon Baines Johnson, February 16, 1965

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/jcs-civil-rights-correspondence>

Preferred Citation

[Title], John C. Stennis Collection. Mississippi Political Collections, Mississippi State University Libraries.

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the John C. Stennis Digital Collections at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in Civil Rights Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com.

RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA., CHAIRMAN
JOHN STENNIS, MISS.
HARRY FLOOD BYRD, VA.
STUART SYMINGTON, MO.
HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH.
SAM J. ERVIN, JR., N.C.
HOWARD W. CANNON, NEV.
ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA.
STEPHEN M. YOUNG, OHIO
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII
THOMAS J. MCINTYRE, N.H.
DANIEL B. BREWSTER, MD.

LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, MASS.
MARGARET CHASE SMITH, MAINE
STROM THURMOND, S.C.
JACK MILLER, IOWA
JOHN G. TOWER, TEX.

CHARLES B. KIRBOW, CHIEF CLERK

32- Miss
Boycott

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

February 16, 1965

The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, there is a plan to attempt a nationwide boycott of products manufactured in Mississippi. I do not know the full extent of this plan, but I do know that it is already having a very adverse effect.

On February 2, 1965, the Wall Street Journal carried a news story, copy of which is attached, pointing out that a number of local chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People are behind this movement. This news article gives a number of examples of the cancellation of orders, or a change in plans in the placing of orders, with Mississippi industrial plants.

I have discussed this situation with business leaders in various places over the nation whom I personally know. This threat is real and and in some ways the boycott has already had considerable impact. I have found that it is a matter of serious concern to many members of business fraternity, including a number of national merchandising chains who buy their products in our State. Further, I personally know of instances over the past few weeks where companies already operating in Mississippi have abandoned or postponed plans already made for the expansion of their plants, or the construction of additional branches in other communities. They have done this awaiting the outcome of the boycott.

It is obvious that once such a movement gains momentum as to one State, it can easily spread to other States until large areas of the country become affected. Consumers or industrialists in those States might attempt retaliation with their own boycott, or by other means, and matters can quickly get beyond control, seriously affecting our national economy. These facts and the many possible dangers make the problem of utmost national importance, and I know that it is of the utmost concern to you.

I think it is in the national interest that steps be taken to nip this movement in the bud. Unless it is stopped in its entirety it may spread until entire areas of the country are engulfed. I am sure that you will have in mind some very effective measures which can be taken

2-The President-2/16/65

to stop this. As one possible solution I respectfully suggest the following.

I know you will want to obtain all the facts available and then I hope you will bring the matter up at a press conference and make one of your forceful statements thereon, or otherwise issue an appropriate statement. I hope you will want to point out that you are against the basic concept of such a boycott and that these matters are difficult to control or to stop once put into motion, and that all people are hurt severely by them, including those the sponsors might intend to help.

I respectfully call this to your attention with the hope that you will have your staff obtain all the facts available for your further consideration and action. If there is any way I can be of assistance, I am certainly ready to devote whatever time may be necessary to the problem.

Respectfully yours,

John Stennis
United States Senator

JS/ca
Enclosure