

7-7-1964

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, July 7-August 3, 1964

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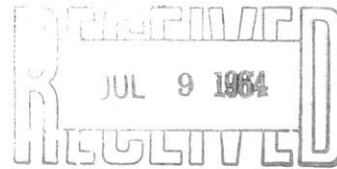
TEXTILIST

MAGNOLIA, MISSISSIPPI

July 7, 1964

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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



JOHN STENNIS

Dear Senator Stennis:

I sincerely trust that you have caught up with your long days, weeks and months in your recent fight against the Civil Rights. Such is a drain against one's health.

It is unfortunate that President Johnson resorted to playing a full hand in behalf of this bill that is going to react, and fast, against him. It may take several weeks to get a line on this reaction but it is coming, and the consequences could be just what Khrushchev had wanted-- to rip this country wide open.

An article in today's paper--'Wonderful, LBJ'S word on Reaction'--shows something worth thinking about. Looks like Congressman Celler from Brooklyn with Robert Kennedy "running interference" crossed the goal line without any trouble.

At your convenience, I will thank you to note the three enclosed clippings from Times-Picayune, and briefly comment on them.

No.1-"What's Wrong "-last paragraph as to United States-Soviet Union to burn aircraft. Does the President have the authority to enter into such an important agreement without permission of Congress? By now it should be known that Russia keeps no agreements. They even still owe the United States some ten billion dollars from War 1.

No.2-"Rain Hampers Search For Trio"- With this having taken place in your territory, you no doubt have a rather good idea as to what is actually involved there. Off hand many believe these three men are alive and perhaps carefully taken care of back in friendly area, and the search being kept up for what purpose?

No.3-"Race Relations Chief Is Named--Leroy Collins." Of course you know him, and is he going to be raw or reasonable?

It is just hard to believe that in these United States that such a piece of legislation could have been passed. Looks like the old spirit on the part of the Pioneers relatives has faded. All this high handed legislation for just 10% of our population just does not have any common sense attached.

If you have not seen the Liberty Lobby (6) page leaflet published in Washington--LBJ- A Political Biography-it is being scattered all over The United States. Kindest regards- Sincerely

RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

August 3, 1964

HARRY L. WINGATE, JR., CHIEF CLERK

[REDACTED]
Magnolia, Mississippi

Dear [REDACTED]:

I have held your excellent letter on my desk until I could have an opportunity to answer it personally, and I do want to express my deep thanks for your thoughtfulness in writing and the points you made in your letter.

I could not agree with you more. I am certainly opposed to disarmament under the conditions now being discussed, and the President has no authority to enter into a binding treaty with the Soviets or anyone else without the approval of the Senate. I will certainly scrutinize very carefully any proposed treaty submitted to the Senate for ratification. As you know, I opposed the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and I still think we made a grave mistake getting into an agreement with the Soviets.

With reference to former Governor Collins, I certainly do not approve the appointment and voted against his confirmation. I realize that it could have been a lot worse and I am sure that Governor Collins will try to make the best of a bad situation. However, I am against all of it. I think the so-called Community Relations Service is a farce. The whole Civil Rights Bill is unwise, unworkable, and largely unconstitutional. I am deeply disappointed that we were unable to block passage of this Bill. I am heartsick that our people will be faced with the ordeal of the coming months.

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August 3, 1964

Certainly, no reasonable person can really believe that a continued search of the Neshoba County area can turn up anything that has not already been found. I can only conclude that the continued search by hundreds of Navy personnel and others is largely political. I regret this very much, but it seems that anything to which the phrase "civil rights" can be attached immediately gets top-level attention by the Federal government, with its political implications and the matter of searching for votes of minority groups in the Presidential election year.

I deeply appreciate your letter, and it is always a pleasure to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

John Stennis
United States Senator

JS/cc