

9-1-1965

Senator Stennis Civil Rights Correspondence B04F59L01

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.

32
Prentiss
Incident

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WILLIAM H. DARDEN, CHIEF OF STAFF
CHARLES B. KIRBOW, CHIEF CLERK

September 1, 1965

[REDACTED]
Greenwood, Mississippi

Dear [REDACTED]:

I appreciate very much your timely letter of August 25th. It is always helpful to have letters from men like you on any subject, and I deeply appreciate and value your counsel and advice.

This Prentiss incident blew in on Senator Eastland and me like a storm out of a clear sky and, along with you, we of course never dreamed they would resort to practices of this kind. On receiving calls from [REDACTED], Editor of the paper at Prentiss, and also from Attorney [REDACTED], Senator Eastland and I immediately got together and decided to take this matter directly to the Attorney General himself as he was the one who had the authority to stop it. In a personal conference with the Attorney General, held just as soon as possible, he did agree to take charge and to remedy the situation. We alerted the people at Prentiss accordingly, and the Attorney General did act the next day in withdrawing from the Motel premises and setting up shop in the post office building. We have been assured off-the-record that damages would be paid. Senator Eastland and I did not make a public statement about this because we were advised by the people in Prentiss that a damage suit would be filed by the owners of the Motel and we did not want to prejudice their case.

Certainly all of us are indignant about this incident, and I am certainly going to do everything I can, as will Senator Eastland, to see that nothing like this happens again. I just regret exceedingly that this did happen and that the people of Prentiss and Jeff Davis County were subjected to such treatment, particularly [REDACTED]. I will leave no stone unturned to prevent such as this happening again. It is inexcusable and certainly unbelievable that such a thing could or would happen under our form of government.

I deeply appreciate your interest and support and am always glad to hear from you.

With warmest good wishes and best personal regards, I

am

Your friend,

John Stennis
United States Senator

JS/11