

2-3-1970

## Correspondence, John C. Stennis, February 2-9, 1970

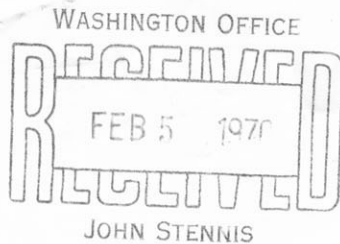
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[REDACTED]

Jackson, Miss. 39209  
Feb. 2, 1970

The Honorable John C. Stennis  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Stennis:

I appreciate the fine job you are doing representing Mississippi in the United States Senate. I look forward to your weekly reports and other accounts of what is happening in Washington.

One thing puzzles me. All the southern states have the same problems. We see accounts of the activities of other senators and representatives, and governors and other state officials, but they all seem to be going in different directions and accomplishing very little.

Why can not all of you get together and put forth some organized effort and tell Mr. Nixon and Mr. Finch we have had enough? With probably more than 100 electoral votes in the South, if these votes could be organized into a block that alone would solve our problems.

The important committee chairmanships held by Southern members of the Congress should wield enough power to free us of the yoke placed on us by the Northern liberals. But the chairmen, and other members, of these committees will have to band together to be able to have any influence.

It seems to me that public opinion may be bringing about some changes in the thinking of some of our public officials. One good example is that Gov. Kirk of Florida has had his backbone stiffened a bit.

I have already expressed my appreciation to you for your efforts. But can't you get some help? Divide and conquer has never worked anywhere as well as it works against the South.

Yours very truly,

[REDACTED]

29-C-general

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS., CHAIRMAN

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 9, 1970

[REDACTED]  
Jackson, Mississippi, 39209

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your fine letter. I do want to assure you that we are all working together to get some relief for our schools. As an example, I am enclosing an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in which I was joined by seventeen Southern Senators. The situation is that we must all work through our own channels and keep pounding away from all angles until we awaken the people of the North and West with the realization that they are opposed to those things being forced on the South. When it is brought home to "mama" and "papa" in the North and West that under equal application of the severe rulings, their children will be boxed up and crated all over the city and county like common animals to satisfy the social philosophy of the Supreme Court and HEW as is being done in the South, then we will get a reaction. This is what we are trying to do.

When we get that reaction, HEW and the Courts will not be able to say, "Let's go down South where we can jump up and down on them without getting hurt."

I can assure you that I have been and am continuing to work each day to correct this critical situation and now have pending the amendment to which I referred previously which would assure freedom of choice in many cases. My amendment is patterned after a law enacted last year in the State of New York.

Again my thanks for your support. With warm good wishes,  
I am

Your friend,

John Stennis  
United States Senator

JS/her