

5-12-1965

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, May 12-17, 1965

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MANUFACTURERS OF ELECTRIC HEATING APPLIANCES

CHICAGO 25, ILLINOIS
CORNELIA 7-5100

May 12, 1965

The Honorable John Stennis
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

My Dear Senator Stennis:

I am sorry that I have not answered your letter of April 23 as I have been traveling and it has just caught up with me.

I would appreciate your keeping the information with reference to DeKalb confidential until we have found the proper time to publicly announce our decision to open up a new plant.

We hope to break ground sometime between October of 1965 and the end of the year. It is possible that we will start training people earlier.

We want to thank you for your help and know we can count on you for your continued assistance with the trying problems in Mississippi, with which we are confronted today. As you can see, we feel most confident about our future in Mississippi.

Very truly yours,

32 - Miss Boycott

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

CHARLES B. KIRBOW, CHIEF CLERK

May 17, 1965

[REDACTED]
Homewood
Laurel, Mississippi

Dear [REDACTED]:

Following up on my letter of May 14th, regarding the attempted boycott movement, I have had a further report on [REDACTED] and other labor leaders. They are consistently strong in their opposition to any such movement, and I think they will continue to oppose it. I understand the labor front stands solidly on this even though [REDACTED] did make some off-the-cuff, pop-off remarks about it. This was not a deliberate statement and not a policy statement, and he has changed his mind since then, I am informed from reliable sources.

I believe this matter has died out as a movement although, as in the past, there may be some references to it again. But this proposal was definitely something which Martin Luther King failed to put over and get accepted as a part of his program for the future.

I was really pleased with the announcement last week by International Paper Company that they are building a \$60 million plant and mill in Mississippi. I have done quite a bit of work here in the Senate for forestry research and related forestry programs and because of this special interest over the years, International Paper Company sent one of their officials to my office to give me advance notice on their announcement on this new plant. This representative emphasized that International Paper considered their move quite a vote of confidence in the economy and stability of our State, both now and in the future. He further said that of course they had their nationwide contacts and they had especially considered and evaluated the situation as to the business future of our State, including the idea of the threat of a boycott on Mississippi products - but that they had concluded to locate this plant in Mississippi in preference to several other suitable sites in other states. This was of course quite an encouragement to me and I thought it would be of special interest to you as well.

I was in Mississippi yesterday for my Armed Forces Day engagement in Meridian. I talked with [REDACTED] of DeKalb, the Chairman of our Industrial Committee in Kemper County and who just last week was elected Mayor of DeKalb, and also with [REDACTED] attorney. Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had been encouraged by a visit from [REDACTED] and his assurances of continuing interest in DeKalb.

RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA., CHAIRMAN

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CHARLES B. KIRBOW, CHIEF CLERK

I will certainly advise you of any developments, and of course I want you to do the same with me. As you know, I am willing to go the all-out limit to help get an industry for DeKalb and shall continue my efforts in this regard, and I certainly hope that we will have you and your Company. All reports here are uniform to the effect that business is expected to continue good, with continued enormous consumer buying, including items for personal use such as your products.

With warmest good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Stennis
United States Senator

JS/11
Air Mail