

11-25-1969

**Correspondence, John C. Stennis, November 25-December 3,  
1969**

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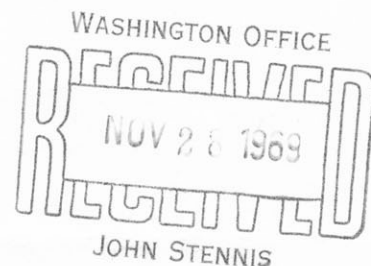
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Woodville, Mississippi  
November 25, 1969

*Schools & Haynesworth*

Senator John Stennis  
United States Congress  
Washington, D.C. 20510



Dear Senator Stennis:

May I say how much I, and many others with whom I come in contact, appreciate your efforts in trying to point out the inequities in the school systems throughout this nation. I only hope you do not give up the fight with HEW, the Supreme Court or anyone else whose hopes are to shackle public education anywhere, but most notably in the South.

The rejection of Judge Haynesworth for the Supreme Court was but another blow to the South, but have noted you voted for him. It seems a shame that our laws are such that a violator almost has immunity and law-abiding citizens fear daily for their lives. Our present law and order problems could be solved so simply it is ludicrous. When only the slightest chance of being punished for wrong-doing is the rule rather than the exception, is it any wonder we have crime in our streets and people in high places as well as low get by with everything up to and including murder?

People of this country have been told to let Washington know their feelings and so I felt compelled to write this letter. Please know that many good people appreciate your efforts. May you stand firmly behind your convictions and cause others to have second thoughts concerning the many issues which will come up before them.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

*Letter to school  
& Haynesworth*

29-c General  
(unofficial)

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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

T. EDWARD BRASWELL, JR., CHIEF OF STAFF

December 3, 1969

[Redacted]

Woodville, Mississippi, 39669

Dear [Redacted]:

This is to thank you for your most timely letter regarding the serious problems facing our public schools. Frankly there has not been a problem on which I have worked harder or longer than the work I have done trying to protect our public schools since the 1954 Supreme Court decision. Since that decision, I have been one of those taking the lead year after year in fighting the many battles that have kept our schools largely on a sound basis up to now.

I am leaving no stone unturned in my continued efforts to bring about a more practical approach to this problem through conferences with the President and other officials, legislation, attempts to get sensible men appointed to the Supreme Court, and Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and any other course available to me.

I am strongly supporting and sponsoring in the Senate the section of the HEW Appropriations Bill put in by Congressman Whitten in the House to provide for freedom of choice by parents in the selection of schools which their children will attend. Also, I have introduced an amendment to this bill that would prevent the use of federal money to force integration in the South until an equal effort is made in the North. I have just recently pointed out on the Senate Floor and in Committee hearings the shocking fact that near total segregation exists in many schools in the North.

Further, I am continuing to have conferences with President Nixon, Attorney General Mitchell, Secretary of HEW Finch and others in an effort to get some relief before our public schools

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are destroyed. I was greatly disappointed in the Supreme Court's latest decision denying additional time in the Southern District cases. I am continuing to do everything I can to correct the situation.

This is a special word of thanks for your support of Judge Haynsworth. I am greatly disappointed that he was not confirmed. He has a strong, vigorous, and active mind, has an excellent background as a practicing lawyer, and has been an outstanding judge on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. I actively and fully supported him on the Senate Floor, but in the end the influence of labor unions and racial groups defeated him. I am sure that those who voted against confirmation will soon regret this tragic mistake.

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

Your friend,

John Stennis  
United States Senator

JS/her