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Senator Stennis Civil Rights Correspondence B04F47L01

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32 Miss. Invasion

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

June 27, 1964

Personal

Honorable Paul B. Johnson
Governor
State of Mississippi
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Governor Johnson:

You are doing a fine job in copy with the terrible situation and serious problems confronting you and our State. My counsel is to stick to your original idea of standing on your policy of law and order, and enforcement of the law as to all persons. This is not only sound, but a solid rallying point.

As perhaps some day you may wish to have a record of the sequence of events as they happened in all of this ordeal, I will fill in a little from here.

Last Thursday after the two of us talked about Noon, your time, I called the White House and stated that they just must call you about the reports as to the Marine troops. I strongly suggested that the President should call you, or that certainly Mr. Hoover of the FBI should call you. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Hoover called me and told me that he had talked at length with you.

I went on over to the Senate floor and in my remarks on the Senate floor I quoted your statement issued earlier in the day, and then quoted Mr. Hoover direct as to what he had said about you and the Mississippi Highway Patrol. I attach hereto copy of my floor statement that date.

You certainly made a splendid showing to the credit of the State in the one-hour CBS television program Thursday night, with Walter Cronkite as Moderator. There was substance in what you said, and your phise, firmness and dignified approach reflected a fine image for our State. I do not say this as flattery, but to state the facts as I saw them and by way of encouragement.

By all means let me know when I can be of service. With warmest good wishes, I am

Your friend,

John Stennis
United States Senator

JS/11
Enc. - Air Mail