

2-13-1965

## Correspondence, John C. Stennis, February 13-22, 1965

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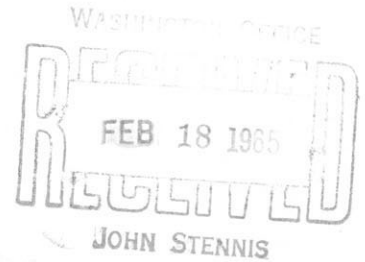
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OF KOSCIUSKO

**KOSCIUSKO, MISS.**

February 13, 1965



PRESIDENT

Hon. John C. Stennis  
United States Senator  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

As always, it was a real privilege to be with you in Washington last week. It was certainly thoughtful of you to meet with us and to give us the benefit of your remarks. I was glad to hear what you had to say at the dinner, and I concur thoroughly with the viewpoint you expressed and I hope we can be guided by your philosophy.

I may be wrong, as I often am, but I believe that most of the people I am in contact with are discouraged by the developments in the segregation issues. I believe that they are willing and anxious to take a different tack. I believe that they realize that we can not win the fight by the methods which we have heretofore employed. I think they realize that we can not successfully wage this campaign openly against the rest of the country. I believe that despite their opposition to it, they are prepared to accept the Civil Rights Act as law.

Yesterday, I was at a meeting with the Board of Supervisors, the Board of Aldermen, and various business men which was called by one of our local industries to explain their intention and method of complying with the Civil Rights Act in July. The feeling of the group as expressed in the meeting, openly and freely, was that they realized that the company had to comply with the law and endorsed their action in doing so. The group further, although not everybody spoke up, agreed that they did not anticipate any violent reaction when this step is taken. Our industrial leaders have all agreed that they intend to comply with the law before it becomes effective.

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the Kosciusko Municipal Separate School District, we have not yet decided whether we will sign the application for federal funds or not. I intend to vote to sign it, and I believe that at least a majority of our Board will do so. At our last meeting in this month, a dele-

Hon. John C. Stennis:

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gation was sent to us by the Chamber of Commerce to tell us that they thought we should sign it, but that they would back us up in anything that we did. I have had people whom I thought would resist it to the bitter end to tell me that they thought we might as well sign it since we had to, and go on from there. These statements were made voluntarily and without solicitation on my part. These things have convinced me that most of our people are, prepared to, and desirous of, complying with these federal laws and pushing on with the development of Mississippi.

It may be that I have totally misjudged the situation, but I believe that the people of Mississippi are ready and waiting for a leader to direct them in this course. They are tired of strife and of being the target of every group that wants to use us for their own benefit.

I hope you will pardon the length of this letter, but I needed to say this to someone, and I know you will take it in the spirit in which it is written.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA., CHAIRMAN

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

February 22, 1965

32 Mississippi  
Boycott

President

Koscisuko, Mississippi

Dear [REDACTED]:

I cannot thank you enough for your letter of February 13. To me your position represents leadership in the financial, business and banking circles of the highest type, and I think it is just what we must have in Mississippi for the age in which we live.

I have no sympathy whatsoever for the so-called Civil Rights movement and yield to no one in my efforts here to stop every single phase of it that invades the Constitution and our customs.

At the same time, our people must go right on making a living and we cannot do it in the atmosphere of lawlessness. I am very much concerned about the possibility of this boycott. In fact, I know it is already taking effect to a degree. It is going to be very difficult to cope with and to dispel from the minds of businessmen elsewhere. Leadership of your type, as well as some others, is a necessary step in the right direction and will gradually get results I am sure.

Your visit here was certainly a treat to me, and I hope you and Mrs. Morgan will come back soon. I enjoyed talking with Mrs. Morgan. She has ideas of her own and expresses them well.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Your friend,

John Stennis  
United States Senator

JS/ga