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Senator Stennis Civil Rights Correspondence B04F46L03

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32- Miss.
Boycott

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

February 22, 1965

Honorable Paul B. Johnson
Governor of Mississippi
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Governor:

A week has passed since you were here on MEET THE PRESS. I have been approached by many of the Senators from all over the nation, including every area of the country, who spoke of your deliberation, your composure, your sense of responsibility, and your willingness to answer all questions. I am fully convinced that you made a splendid impression and improved considerably the picture of Mississippi before the nation.

Further, a great number of people have been here during the past week from Mississippi who commented favorably on your appearance. From their remarks I judge that your leadership in this approach is having a good effect in our State. Of course I know there are many ups and downs, and the problem will continue.

I continue to feel, Governor, that this boycott threat is real and is serious and I believe it is already in effect to a degree. Had it not been for your work and that of others which has caused some improvement in the situation, we would be a longway down the economic ladder now due to the fear that this boycott threat seems to generate in the minds of retail establishments and others across the nation who are using our products. It is not so much the boycott that is hurting now; it is the threat and fear and expectation of a boycott on our products. This makes it all the more necessary for the right kind of news to be coming out of our State. Gradually this will meet the situation, I think, as to the boycott threat.

Again, my congratulations on your MEET THE PRESS appearance.

Let me hear from you. With warmest good wishes, I

am

Your friend,

John Stennis
United States Senator

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Air Mail