

1-29-1970

## Correspondence, John C. Stennis, January 29-February 9, 1970

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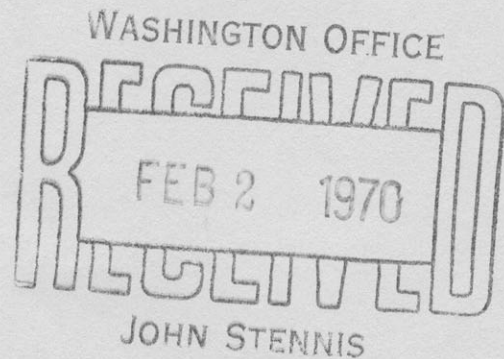
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[REDACTED]  
Merew, Mississippi  
January 29, 1970

Senator John C. Stennis  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.



Dear Sir:

I am a confused 15 year-old  
high school sophomore. I am confused  
as to why the Supreme Court is forcing  
Mississippi to desegregate immediately.  
Doesn't it know that it is hurting  
instead of helping. I already know  
of one school that has closed down.  
What are people going to do now?  
Not everyone can afford to go  
to private schools.

Personally I do not mind the  
going to school with the black  
students, but I don't want to  
be the only white tenth-grader

in my school, I don't want to go to private school. Neither do I want my education impaired while going to a public school.

Please explain why the Supreme Court has it in for Mississippi. We don't want to be forced to go to a school that we don't like. When the Supreme Court judges see that they're taking away our freedoms one by one, are we going to end up like Russia? This is the fear of many students in my class.

Wrens is a small town (2,400) and we're not ready for changes like this. I can assure you that when we are paid next year the white enrollment in public schools ~~because~~ will drop. We have already lost to about ~~ten~~ ten teachers and one superintendent. The one we



have now resigns in June.

You are probably thinking that ~~this~~ <sup>that</sup> youngster doesn't know what ~~she~~ she is talking ~~about~~ about. She's just made because their school was hit.

It's true I don't understand it all. I just know that when you mention "school" everyone gets a migraine headache. ~~AA~~ Our school hasn't really been hit yet. We are under a court order issued last summer which called for freedom of choice in grades 7-12 and zoning in grades 1-6. We are to be paired in September if we have a school left.

Would you please explain to me why this doesn't happen in the North? I love Mississippi, but I'm getting tired of people walking all over it. I am

beginning to believe what my  
teachers have been saying. They  
say that the government wants  
to try something new and we're  
the guinea pig. The students are  
tired of being guinea pig. Who isn't  
anyone anymore care for others?

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]  
Hrew, Mississippi  
38737

29C- General

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 9, 1970

[REDACTED]  
Drew, Mississippi, 38737

Dear [REDACTED]:

I was deeply moved by your recent letter regarding the school situation in Drew. It is very similar to that in many school districts in our State. I agree with you that there is no logical reason why the Supreme Court should go beyond the law and the Constitution to enforce a punitive decision against our region of the country while the North and West are permitted to go untouched. I have said time and again that there is no constitutional basis for this application of a double standard. If segregation is wrong in the South, it is also wrong in the North and the West. If freedom of choice is the law in the North and the West, it should be legal in the South.

These injustices against the South cannot be allowed to prevail. I want to assure you that I have been and am continuing to work each day to correct this critical situation through legislation to put pressure on the segregated sections of the North and West in order to relieve pressure on the South and to make freedom legal in all sections, conferences with President Nixon and other officials in Washington, attempts to get practical, reasonable men appointed to the Supreme Court and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and any other course available to me.

Again my thanks for your letter. With warm good wishes,  
I am

Your friend,

John Stennis  
United States Senator

JS/her