

2-3-1970

## Correspondence, John C. Stennis, February 4-13, 1970

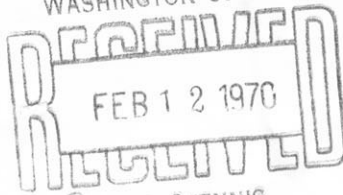
Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/jcs-civil-rights-correspondence>

---

### Preferred Citation

[Title], John C. Stennis Collection. Mississippi Political Collections, Mississippi State University Libraries.

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the John C. Stennis Digital Collections at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in Civil Rights Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact [scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com](mailto:scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com).



JOHN STENNIS

Senator John Stennis

Dear Sir:

It is by the sudden rage for school  
integration?

I, [redacted] a native of Mississippi,  
and a concerned citizen would like to express  
to you my views concerning the school situation  
here in the state and ask you a few  
questions that have chased my mind from  
time to time.

A state that all of a suddenly  
decided to change a system over night  
and did not consider the feeling of  
others and how many persons will shed  
blood is a terrible state. This is what  
Mississippi did several months ago. This  
is what Mississippi is continuing to do.

The negro children here in the state  
are being hurt daily. I'm not talking  
about what someone told. Personally, I  
have talked to many children and the  
only they seem to want is a chance to  
choose the school of their choice. It's  
hard to wake up one morning and all  
of a suddenly the news reports that a  
decision have been made "to close a  
school you have loved for so long, and  
you are forced to attend a school you  
do not want to. I think if the federal  
government would really face reality they  
will know and really witness that they  
are not being fair to all citizens.

West Point, Mississippi 39173  
February 4, 1970

These questions are not running across my mind.

(1) Will there forever have to be blood shedded before a nation or state realizes that they will never change a lifetime system overnight.

(2) Why can't there be equal school facilities and the school system remain as it was in the past.

(3) How can the federal government sleep each night knowing that many people are being killed and the blood is on their hands.

(4) Why don't some members of the federal government come out into the state and sit in on some of the schools and see just what is happening.

Write at your earliest convenience and let me know how you feel about the problems.

Thank you in advance.

Concerned Citizen



JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA.  
STUART SYMINGTON, MO.  
HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH.  
SAM J. ERVIN, JR., N.C.  
HOWARD W. CANNON, NEV.  
STEPHEN M. YOUNG, OHIO  
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII  
THOMAS J. MCINTYRE, N.H.  
HARRY F. BYRD, JR., VA.

MARGARET CHASE SMITH, MAINE  
STROM THURMOND, S.C.  
JOHN G. TOWER, TEX.  
PETER H. DOMINICK, COLO.  
GEORGE MURPHY, CALIF.  
EDWARD W. BROOKE, MASS.  
BARRY GOLDWATER, ARIZ.  
RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER, PA.

T. EDWARD BRASWELL, JR., CHIEF OF STAFF

*29c-general*

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 13, 1970

[REDACTED]  
P. O. Box 2303  
West Point, Mississippi, 39773

Dear [REDACTED]:

This will acknowledge and thank you for your most welcome letter regarding the tragic school situation confronting our State. I have and am continuing to sponsor and support legislation and to use every other path available to me to preserve the neighborhood school and to keep them for the primary purpose, the education of all our children. The Courts and HEW have not been concerned about the education of our children but have pushed aside the best interest of our children, both black and white, to further their own personal social philosophies. Their action in pursuing their social goals have disregarded the Constitution and the law.

No parent of any race wants his children boxed up and crated twenty miles across the city or county not to achieve better education but to achieve so-called "racial balance." The parents are not going to permit it.

The preservation of the neighborhood schools is what I am fighting for. I have two amendments before the Senate now on the matter. The first provides for freedom of choice in most cases and prohibits busing for the purpose of creating a racial balance. This amendment is patterned after a law passed by the State of New York last year and signed by Governor Rockefeller. Certainly if freedom of choice is legal in New York, it should also be legal in Mississippi and throughout the South.

The other amendment would make it the policy of the United States that guidelines and criteria established under the Civil Rights Act and the Elementary and Secondary Education amendments shall be applied uniformly in all regions of the country in dealing with conditions of segregation by race in the schools without regard to the origin and cause of such segregation.

Again my thanks for your letter, and with best wishes, I am

Your friend,

John Stennis  
United States Senator