

4-2-1970

Correspondence, W.C. Rodgers, John C. Stennis, April 2-27, 1970

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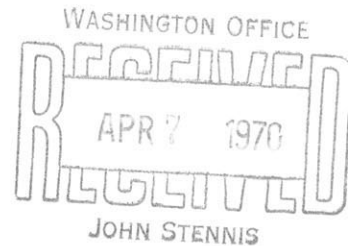
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Schools & Genocide

John
[REDACTED]
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

MEMPHIS, TENN. 38103

April 2, 1970



Honorable John Stennis
United States Senator
U.S. Senate Chamber
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Stennis:

Maybe I have lived too long, but I must confess it is extremely difficult for me to accept the foolish things that our government is doing and allowing.

Through our governmental officials we have practically destroyed all the protection of our most wholesome and, up until now, respected, constitution. Our representatives make agreements and concessions, as you know, that completely undermine our constitution and our people.

It is repulsive to intelligent people to think that our government will subject our citizens to foreign extradition and unfounded charges in other countries. Yet, as you know, our so-called representatives have made and have on file in your branch of the government a treaty or foolish agreement allowing our people to be requisitioned by any government on earth that may have a complaint, regardless of how well-founded or how ridiculous, authorizing the extradition of our people to answer unfounded or foolish charges in any other country.

As you know, this is the treaty known as Genocide. I certainly hope that we can count on our intelligent representatives to reject this disgraceful arrangement.

In addition, as I have heretofore written you, the conduct of the Vietnam war is a disgrace, not only to our country but to all humanity. The very idea that our enemies can restrict our military activities, stop our effective bombing and demand the sacrifice of our brave soldiers is unthinkable by any self-respecting person. Yet, this has actually been done, and is in full force and effect in Vietnam right now, as you well know.

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This war could have been ended years ago if our military forces had been permitted to win the war instead of being hame strung by the enemy.

Yet, we have had two Presidents that both sanctioned and joined in this disgraceful restriction.

Third, the "bussing" of school children out of their home districts to distant or foreign ones is insulting to the intelligence of any self-respecting citizen. This arrangement is so senseless that it is a disgrace to our people and our nation. It is destroying and preventing the education of this generation.

I appeal to you to use all your influence and ability to defeat these inexcusable destructions of the constitutional rights of our people.

With every deference, I am

Sincerely,


W. C. / Rodgers

WCR:njm

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

T. EDWARD BRASWELL, JR., CHIEF OF STAFF

April 27, 1970

Honorable W. C. Rodgers
1101-02 Exchange Building
Memphis, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Rodgers

This will acknowledge and thank you for your recent letter.

I am very grateful for your expression of concern over the serious problems confronting our public schools. As you know, I have been working diligently on this problem - my latest effort being an amendment to the education bill declaring that there shall be one policy for segregation equally enforced throughout the Nation. While I was disappointed that this amendment was weakened in the final version of the bill, I believe that it is only a temporary setback and a minor one when compared with the over all gains.

The exposure over a period of months of the true facts about the extent of segregation in the North and West has focused national attention on the problems in the South. The entire Nation is now aware that the South is being treated unfairly and that the people of the South have been subjected to unreasonable demands while the North and West have gone free even though segregation in many Northern and Western areas is much greater than in the South.

Also, this public exposure has changed some attitudes in Washington. Most notably, for the first time a President of the United States has recognized in a statement of national policy that there are inequities in enforcement that should be corrected. I deeply appreciate your support and you may be assured that I am continuing the fight.

Also I appreciate your letting me know of your opposition to ratification of the Genocide Convention. While the idea of genocide is abhorrent to everyone in the civilized world, ratification of this convention would leave the way open to outside intervention into the

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Internal affairs of our Country and is therefore of highly questionable Constitutionality. On that basis you may be assured of my vigorous opposition if it comes to the Senate Floor.

Again my sincere appreciation for your letter, and with warm good wishes, I am

Your friend,

John Stennis
United States Senator

JS/gp