

3-27-1970

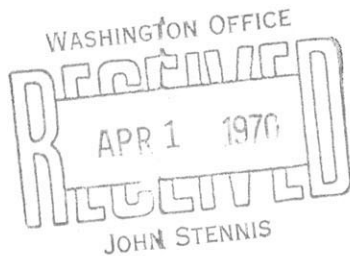
Correspondence, John C. Stennis, March 27-April 10, 1970.

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March 27, 1970

Tupelo, Miss. 38801

The Honorable John Stennis
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Stennis:

My husband and I want you to know how proud we are that you represent us, and all Mississippians, in the United States Senate. A few years ago we had the honor of meeting you in Washington, and attending a session in the Senate chamber. Our children remember this vividly and we feel privileged to have had the opportunity of seeing this phase of our government in action. We stand behind your sincere and forthright decisions and remarks especially concerning Vietnam and our school desegregation plans. We speak only for ourselves, but we do feel that the school situation here in Tupelo has been handled satisfactory. Our children are receiving the sound public school education they deserve and need.

As our oldest child approaches college age we are beginning to be more aware of the crises in our college institutions. We note President Nixon's recent statement to make available additional loans to those unable to afford the high cost of college education, and his remark that no one who cannot afford the cost will have to go without an education. I believe this is a good first step but by no means a solution. My husband and I have both earned college degrees. We know the value of an education. The availability of such loans will indeed aid many students who would otherwise do without the tremendous advantages of college educations. However, with the availability of a loan comes a grave responsibility; paying the loan back, a long reaching obligation.

We are middle class people, our parents were middle class people, and we have always assumed our children would go to college, as we did, and have tried to plan to that end. We are more than willing to sacrifice, and I use this word for lack of a better one, it is not a real sacrifice to see your children receiving an education that will benefit not only them, but have effects on their community, state and country.

Having recently completed our tax return we realize more than ever, the tremendous tax burden Middle Class America assumes. Coupled with inflation it is increasingly difficult to meet expenses let alone provide for college costs. Of course we want to support our government, everything costs us something. Living in this great country is a privilege and one should support it in any way he can, not the least of which is by his money. Why instead of offering loans, paid for by our tax dollars

is there not a tax exemption for college education? This could in many cases, provide the money and incentive for college, or at least a part of it. Is there no relief in sight? Is there any consideration being given to a tax exemption and deduction for college expenses? Parents we know are very concerned by this growing gap between getting into college and paying for it.

I would appreciate so much, your information on this matter.

Again, may I state our great confidence in you and the tremendous job you have undertaken in serving your country and state. May God continue to bless and guide you in your daily life.

Sincerely yours,



April 10, 1970

[REDACTED]
Tupelo, Mississippi 38801

Dear [REDACTED]:

I have and thank you for your recent letter. While the watering down of my amendment for equal enforcement of desegregation guidelines was a disappointment, I believe it was only a temporary setback and a minor one compared with the overall gain. The exposure over a period of months of the true facts about the extent of segregation in the North 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 are being subjected to unreasonable demands, while the North has gone free, and there is segregation in many of the Northern and Western areas much greater than in the South. Also, the public exposure has changed some attitudes here in Washington. For the first time, the President of the United States has recognized and has made a statement of national policy that there are inequities in enforcement that should be corrected. Further, we are getting the support of a number of Senators from outside the South, including Senator Ribicoff of Connecticut, a liberal, a former Governor of his State and a former Secretary of HEW.

You may be assured that I am going to continue this fight.

I am very interested in legislation to provide additional deductions for income tax purposes for higher education expenses. I have taken up this matter on a special basis with Senator Long, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee which handles these bills.

With warm personal regards, I am

Your friend,

John C. Stennis
United States Senator

JCS:cw