

April 4, 1965

Dear Congressman Albert:

Will you kindly explain to me the reason for excluding Texas (and other states) from the voting rights bill?

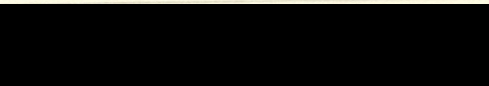
I have lived in Texas and New Mexico and from first-hand observation can state that the Mexican people are much more discriminated against than the Negro there, as are the Indians. Are they considered non-digible because they cannot read & write the English language, or pay the poll tax?

How can special privileges be granted one minority group by the expedient of making the law apply to only a certain few states?

How is it that punishment can be meted for an offense committed before a law is passed? What is the precedent, and what is to keep this idea from spreading to other areas of our law?

I would appreciate some information on these questions. Thank you.

(miss)



Nowata, Okla.

April 8, 1965

Miss [REDACTED]
Nowata
Oklahoma

Dear Miss [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your letter concerning the voting rights legislation now being considered in Congressional committees on the Judiciary. The subcommittees working on this measure have not reached agreement on a final bill to be reported to the full committees. The inequities and deficiencies you mentioned have been developed in the subcommittees and efforts are being made to overcome them. The problem of limited application because of poll taxes, literacy tests, and the varying conditions existing in part or in whole in certain States have caused those drafting the bill to be hard put to write a measure which will do the job, fall within Constitutional law, and avoid any punitive character.

I am not a member of these subcommittees and cannot predict the specifics of the legislation which they may report. I do want to assure you that the points you mention are recognized as problematical by the Committees and that great effort is being directed to overcoming them.

Thank you again for your interest.

Sincerely,

CARL ALBERT, M. C.
Third District, Oklahoma

CA/Vck