

RECD MAR 19 1965

Alma, Arkla.
3-16-65

Dear Senator Harris;

I am sure you are very busy as a new Senator and I have confidence you will make good.

But I hope you will not be stampeded into approving this new legislation proposed by the president. I can assure you lots of people are seething but feel so helpless as we see States Rights being destroyed in every area of our lives.

I felt very sorry about the murder of the young Minister in Selma but I couldn't help but wonder if there weren't some social evils in Boston that could have concerned him and he need not have been in Alabama. I am quite

sure that there are unfair
practices in Harlem, California
and all sections of the Country.
I feel the South has been signally
persecuted. I notice the President
didn't tolerate eight weeks of
sit downs for very long in the
White House or on Pennsylvania
Avenue. Martin Luther King loves
to be on television and brag
about seeing the president. I
feel that a monster has been
allowed to get out of hand in
our efforts to be fair. I hate
to see the federal government
take over everything the state
governments should do. I also
regret the way the present
supreme court is re-writing
our constitution.

I did so hope since President
Johnson and his wife were

Southerners that they would find a more fair solution to the city of Selma and other Southern cities. I am sure you are aware that it will not be long until all the Governors, Senators and other officials will be negro in the Southern states if the law he has proposed is passed.

This letter sounds like it is written in haste but actually I have been very unhappy over the trend of events for a long time but have felt so helpless.

I am a Democrat and met you at the air port in Alva after your election as well as several other times. I do not presume to tell you what to do but I assure many who are not as vocal as the radicals are as disturbed

As I am but are bewildered
as I am to see the negroes
taking over our country.
I want them treated fairly but
I do not feel that the South
should be turned over to them
and the rights of the minority
whites ignored.

I want to be for the right
things, I do not want to be
narrow and bigoted but I am
so alarmed over the recent
turn of events that I do not
know what is right and
what is wrong any more. I
am a college graduate and I
have tried to be well read and
up to date but I am bewildered
by the changes taking place.
Student riots in California
so bad the Chancellor

COPY

March 31, 1965

Mrs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Alva, Oklahoma

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]:

I deeply appreciate your communication expressing concern about the voting rights bill. This is, indeed, a complicated area for legislation, involving, as it does, rights of individuals, of officials and of states.

It seems to me, however, that under our Constitution there is no right more fundamental to the effective operation of our republic than the right to vote. The issue before the Congress is not so much what tests or qualifications are applied, but whether they are applied equally to all citizens in the future.

I will give your views careful consideration.

Sincerely yours,

FRED R. HARRIS
U. S. Senate

FRH:yb