

AUG 9 1971

DJ 166-012-3

Mr. Samuel C. Cashio
District Attorney
18th Judicial District
P. O. Box 36
Maringouin, Louisiana 70757

Dear Mr. Cashio:

This is in reference to the reapportionment plan for police jury wards in Pointe Coupee Parish, which was submitted to the Attorney General pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Under the submitted plan, Ward 5, which has a substantial black majority and a number of black elected officials, would be merged with Wards 4 and 6. The resulting new double-member district would have a majority white population. It is our view that this aspect of the plan unnecessarily discriminates against black candidates and voters. Therefore, I must on behalf of the Attorney General interpose an objection to the plan.

Should you wish to present justification for the plan objected to, or evidence that its implementation would not violate Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965,

we will consider the matter further.

Of course, as provided for by Section 5, you have the alternative of instituting an action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for a declaratory judgment that the plan does not have the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. NORMAN
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division