

DJ 166-012-3

JAN 29 1973

Mr. Leo Lamar Phillips, Jr.
Attorney at Law
Post Office Box 148
Ash Street
Cochran, Georgia 31014

Dear Mr. Phillips:

This is in response to your letters of October 23, 1972, and November 27, 1972, in which you submitted a change in the method of electing the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Cochran, Georgia to the Attorney General for his review pursuant to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

After carefully considering the proposed change, the supporting material and information obtained from other sources, we are unable to conclude, as we must under the Voting Rights Act, that this 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. I must, therefore, on behalf of the Attorney General, interpose an objection to the implementation of this plan.

Of course, Section 5 permits you to seek a declaratory judgment from the District Court for the District of Columbia that this plan neither has the purpose nor will have the effect of denying or abridging

the right to vote on account of race. Until such a judgment is rendered by that court, however, the legal effect of the objection of the Attorney General is to render unenforceable this change in the method of electing members of the City Council of Cochran.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. NORMAN
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division