

D.J. 166-012-3

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Mr. William H. Quin
Attorney at Law
Post Office Box 53
Kentwood, Louisiana 70444

Dear Mr. Quin:

This is in response to your letter of January 31, 1972, in which you submitted, pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Court Order of November 30, 1971, the reapportionment plans adopted by the Parish School Board on January 27, 1972.

As you have requested, we have given this submission expedited consideration. The Attorney General does not interpose any objection to the redistricting aspects of the reapportionment plan, which provides for 6 single-member districts. However, with regards to that portion of the plan which seeks to delay the complete implementation of the redistricting plan by providing for the staggered election of the school board members over the next four-year period, we note several problems.

While continuity is desirable and normally creates no problem, we are concerned here for two reasons. First, the Court Order apparently requires election of all school board members this year. Second, District Two, a

74% black district, would for the next two years be represented by a nonresident incumbent. You have presented no justification, and none occurs to us, to overcome these two problems. Accordingly, we must object to that portion of the plan which provides for its implementation over a four-year period.

Inasmuch as the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana has held its proceedings in abeyance pending Section 5 review, I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to the Court.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. NORMAN
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division