

BLE:WG:clk  
DJ 166-012-3

MAY 25 1971

Mr. Ernest R. Duff  
Attorney  
Marion County Board of Supervisors  
Suite 216, Newson Building  
Columbia, Mississippi 39429

Dear Mr. Duff:

This is in reference to your submission to the Attorney General pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 of a plan to change the supervisors' district lines in Marion County, Mississippi.

I have carefully examined the data you and the Marion County officials have furnished, as well as information gathered by my staff. I understand the complexities involved in drafting a reapportionment plan and the difficulties in developing accurate population statistics. However, because of conflicts between population figures reported by the Bureau of the Census and those compiled by the county, I am unable, based on the presently available facts, to resolve questions I have concerning the effect of the new districts. In view of this, I am compelled at this time to object on behalf of the Attorney General to the redistricting submission.

I have asked my staff to obtain additional population information from the Bureau of the Census in the hope that my questions may be fully

resolved. Please be assured that this information, which is necessary for me to properly exercise my responsibilities, will be reviewed as soon as possible. If these facts reflect that there is no discriminatory racial effect, I will notify you of my determination and withdraw this objection.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or Mr. James P. Turner, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. NORMAN  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division