

JUL 16 1971

Mr. Will A. Nickman
Attorney at Law
Post Office Box 430
Oxford, Mississippi 38655

Dear Mr. Nickman:

Reference is made to the redistricting, changes in precincts and polling places, and reregistration in Lafayette County, submitted to the Attorney General pursuant to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Attorney General will not at this time interpose any objection to the redistricting, reregistration, or change in precincts, except that based on the information we have, we cannot approve the proposed use of College Hill School as a polling place - a school which we understand is a private academy attended exclusively by white students. We are advised that arrangements can be made without difficulty for the use of large trailers or other facilities as a new polling place for the precinct. Also, my finding of no objection to your reregistration plan is based on my understanding that both the old and new voter registration books will be used for the August primary and November general elections this year.

Should you wish to present justification for the polling place location objected to, or evidence that its use 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 of the Voting Rights Act, 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 polling place objected to 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.

Finally, we feel a responsibility to point out that Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act expressly provides that the failure of the Attorney General to object does not bar any subsequent judicial action to enjoin the enforcement of such changes.

Our study of the submitted redistricting plan yielded evidence of population disparities between districts. Accordingly, you may wish to consider a further redistricting following this year's elections.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. NORMAN
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division