

J. W. FULBRIGHT
ARKANSAS

COMMITTEES:
FOREIGN RELATIONS (CHAIRMAN)
FINANCE
JOINT ECONOMIC

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C.

LEE WILLIAMS
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

JOE W. (PAT) FLEMING
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT

May 14, 1964

The Rev. Rhodes Thompson, Jr.
Pulaski Heights Christian Church
Hillcrest and Spruce Streets
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of April 28.

I appreciate your taking the time to let me have your thoughts on the Civil Rights Bill which is before the Senate. The racial problem is undoubtedly the most vexing and seemingly insoluble one with which I have had to deal while I have been in the Senate. It is difficult to foresee what may develop in the debate on this bill and, in truth, all I can tell you at this point is that I will keep your comments in mind.

I am sure that I need not remind you that in the past I have opposed these bills on the ground that we cannot achieve by legislation a result which essentially requires better education on the one hand and understanding and compassion on the other. I have supported other measures which I thought were designed to promote these ends, such as Federal aid to education, the Hill-Burton Program, etc.

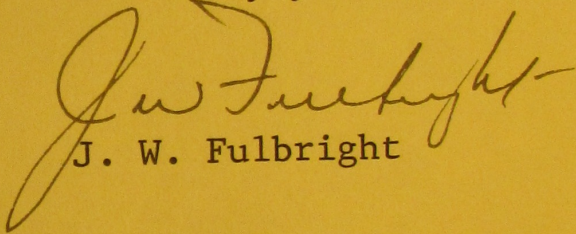
I consider that having opposed the civil rights bills in the past, the people of Arkansas took this into consideration in re-electing me in

- 2 -

1962. A change from that position on a matter with such intimate and emotional overtones involved is, in a sense, a breach of faith with my constituents and I believe should be preceded by a thorough consultation with them.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



J. W. Fulbright

JWF:fdh