

JOHNSON

January 23, 1960

Dear Senator Johnson:

I was sent a bill which was introduced the other day by a Congressman from Florida in the House, urging the establishment of a peace agency. This is in many ways similar to the idea for a peace agency presented to the Advisory Council at the last meeting.

I feel very strongly that this idea will make a real appeal to women and young people, and no matter who our candidate is we do not have a chance of meeting Nixon unless we can get a majority of the women's vote and of the young people's vote. The feeling is that the Democrats are lagging in their interest in peace and are afraid to take many of the steps that need to be taken, so I urge you in the hope that you will be able to work out something beyond this bill which has been introduced to the Advisory Council idea, which is based probably on sounder facts, and really do something about it.

A year ago I thought that the Democrats would really win the coming election. I cannot bear to think of Nixon's being the President of the US but I think it is very probable that he will be. He is well organized and ruthless, and the Democrats have allowed themselves in many areas such as New York City to be dominated by boss rule and an amount of dishonesty is coming out in their various relationships to their positions and the work they do which gives people a very good reason for not returning them to power. I think in New York City we can easily find ourselves defeated even for the mayoralty.

There is no question that the Republicans are trying to capitalize and be the "apostles of peace and prosperity", and unless we manage to

change the situation quite forcibly in the next few months, I am afraid we are in for a Nixon victory.

I know you will say I am being an "apostle of doom" but I am looking very hard for some one thing that might catch the imagination of women and youth and help our party to keep their vote, or gain their vote, in the next election.

With my good wishes,

Very cordially yours,

The Hon. Lyndon Johnson
The Senate
Washington, D.C.

JOHNSON

January 29, 1960

Dear Senator Johnson:

I am writing you because from all reports the "House Rules Committee" has at present a very weak civil rights bill and there is danger that this is all that will be approved.

There are three things that I think absolutely essential in any civil rights bill:
1. The implementation of the Supreme Court order for desegregation everywhere in our country. I realize that time was given and that we have wasted time. I think this could have been begun in the first grade and the percentage increased year by year so that when these first graders reached highschool they would be unconscious of what had happened. Unfortunately, this has not been done, and I think we should begin and do it immediately. 2. I think the Attorney General must have the power to move in all cases of civil rights violation. 3. I think the proposal to have federal voting registrars in areas where Negroes are denied the right to vote, is essential.

If it would help at all, I would be delighted to stop off in Washington on my way back from the West Coast on February 11th. If my plane is on time, I would get in at 3:30 p.m. but I could safely say I would be at the Senate by 4:30 if you cared to see me for a few minutes. I will then go back to the airport and come on to New York.

I think it absolutely necessary that we make a Democratic record on this bill. The Negroes are going over more and more to the Republicans, and those that we can count on as Democrats need a real achievement on the part of the Democrats to point to as a reason for backing the Democratic party.

With every good wish,

Very sincerely yours,

Sen Lyndon Johnson

This is an answer to Franklin D. Roosevelt's letter of 1/24/60. I am sure at once of my heart that you will not doubt.



JOHNSON

LYNDON B. JOHNSON
SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

February 2, 1960

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Like you, I am hoping to find something that will capture the imagination of the American people. Possibly the peace agency would be such a step.

I am not familiar with the bill by the Congressman from Florida, but I will look into it and try to form a judgment as to whether it would be a practical vehicle for arriving at a sound objective.

I don't feel pessimistic about the forthcoming election. But I have always conducted myself on the basis that any election can be lost if people lose their alertness and their awareness of the issues. I am glad that I heard from you and I hope you will continue to keep me aware of your views.

With cordial regards.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
55 East 74th Street
New York 21, New York