

July 11, 1969

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh  
Chairman, Civil Rights Commission  
Notre Dame University  
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

Dear Father Hesburgh:

Your telegram of June 25 to the Attorney General has been referred to me for answer together with the kind telegram which you and the Commissioners sent to me personally.

I want you to know, Father Hesburgh, that the Attorney General and myself deeply appreciate the help that the Civil Rights Commission has been giving us in very important areas in the few months that we have been in office.

As you well know, we in this administration are interested in results as opposed to accolades. Our concern is with children and not the personalities engaged in political issues.

It was necessary for us to issue some statement with respect to school desegregation. Unfortunately, the remaining districts in the south where there is resistance to the elimination of racial discrimination and the big districts in the north are as different as night and day, and therefore, any statement treating the subject must be brought out to cover both.

I believe that the statement which we issued last week can best be summarized as follows: "We intend to enforce the law--vigorously--with reason, in the end that the best interest of the children of America will be served."

In view of your very strong support in the past, I hope the Commission will watch closely as we begin to unfold our enforcement program and that appropriate public attention will be paid by the Commission to that program.

Again it was good to hear from you and your fellow Commission members.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Jerris Leonard  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

cc: Stephen Horne  
Hector Garcia  
Frankie M. Freeman  
Maurice B. Mitchell  
Robert S. Rankin