

DJ 166-012-3

DEC 8 1972

Mr. George Buller
President
St. Landry Parish Police Jury
P. O. Box 551
Opalouzas, Louisiana 70570

Dear Mr. Buller:

This letter is in reference to your submission to the Attorney General, pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, of the change in polling place in the village of Lawtell, Louisiana.

The resolution would move the polling place from Daigle's Washateria to the Knights of Columbus Hall after the November 7, 1972, election. We have received information that black citizens are not normally permitted free access to the Knights of Columbus Hall. Under these circumstances we are not able to conclude that this polling place change will not have a discriminatory impact. Therefore, on behalf of the Attorney General I must interpose an objection to the implementation of the change. We understand that other facilities are available in the vicinity.

Of course, as provided by Section 5, you may seek a judgment in the District Court for the District of Columbia declaring that the voting change has neither the purpose nor will have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. NORMAN
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division