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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
25 100-612-3

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE  
POST OFFICE BOX 37  
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39010

JUL 19 1971

Dear Mr. Normile:

This is in reference to the proposed redistricting plan which was submitted to the Attorney General by you on behalf of Vicksburg County, Mississippi, under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

We have given careful consideration to the submitted changes and supporting information as well as data compiled by the Bureau of Census and information we have received from private citizens. On the basis of this information we are unable to conclude that the changes submitted by Vicksburg County regarding the districting plan made to conform Section 5 is discriminatory.

The following changes were made to conform with the requirements of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The changes are as follows:

- 1. The boundaries of the 1st and 2nd districts were interchanged.
- 2. The boundaries of the 3rd and 4th districts were interchanged.
- 3. The boundaries of the 5th and 6th districts were interchanged.
- 4. The boundaries of the 7th and 8th districts were interchanged.

For further information contact:

Mr. R. L. - 202-320-1010 (ext. 101)  
FBI - Vicksburg, Mississippi.  
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For example, there, numerically, the black population of Jacobson District 1, which is apparently overrepresented, is smaller than the black population of the other four or five districts; whereas the black population of District 4, which apparently is underrepresented, is larger than the others permitted districts. Thus, not only are there serious problems with the redistricting, both in the black and white town compartments, but it is not sufficiently clear to us that the plan meets Fifteenth Amendment requirements.

Our difficulty is compounded by the fact that the district boundary lines within the City of Yacoo unnecessarily divide the black residential areas into each of the five districts. These lines do not seem to be related to numeric population configurations, or to considerations for district compactness, or to a standard of regularity of shape. In short, while we do not imply a purpose to discriminate, we are required by the law to look to the effect as well; and among the circumstances here, we cannot approve the proposed changes.

This proposal on the reorganization of voting districts has been submitted to the Board, it is our understanding, because it is the only one that is available at this time. We have not had an opportunity to examine it in detail, nor have we had an opportunity to discuss it with the Board. We are, however, available to do either or both if the Board so desires. We would like to emphasize that we are not in a position to make recommendations on the basis of this proposal, but we are available to do so if the Board so desires. We would like to emphasize that we are not in a position to make recommendations on the basis of this proposal, but we are available to do so if the Board so desires.