

NOV 28 1972

Mr. Leon F. Hannaford  
County Attorney  
Tate County  
Senobia, Mississippi 38668

Dear Mr. Hannaford:

This is in reference to the redistricting plan for Tate County, Mississippi, submitted by you to the Attorney General pursuant to Section 3 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 on September 25, 1972.

Our review and analysis of the submitted plan shows that a small portion of existing District 3 has been made a part of proposed District 1 even though it is non-contiguous with and located some distance from the main body of District 1. As far as we are able to determine, such non-contiguous districting is unparalleled and a departure from the traditional manner of redrawing district lines. Our analysis also reveals that a traditional drawing of the boundary lines in Tate County to form reasonably compact districts would probably result a district with a higher black majority than any of those in the proposed plan.

In view of these circumstances, and since no compelling reason for the departure from the customary manner of redistricting into contiguous districts has

been advanced, the Attorney General cannot conclude, as he must under the Voting Rights Act, that this redistricting plan does not have the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race. For that reason, I must, on behalf of the Attorney General, interpose an objection to the plan submitted.

Of course, any new redistricting proposal devised for the reapportionment of Tate County also must be submitted either to the District Court for the District of Columbia or to the Attorney General pursuant to Section 5. If you have any questions relative to this matter or if we can be of assistance in any new submission you desire to make please contact us.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. KORMAN  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division