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JUN 26 1969

Honorable Jack P. F. Gremillion
Attorney General of Louisiana
State Capitol Building
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

This is in reference to Act 445 and Act 561 enacted by the Louisiana State Legislature at the 1968 Regular Session, copies of which were submitted to the Attorney General pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

We have carefully examined and considered this material. These amendments place in the hands of existing police juries and school boards broad discretion in redrawing the boundaries of police jury wards and establishing special school board election districts, and in determining the manner of electing members to their particular bodies. On the basis of the information before me, I have concluded that the new procedures that both amendments provide for have had and, if widely implemented, will have the effect of discriminating against negro voters on account of their race, and of denying to them an effective voice in the selection of police jury and school board members. In the absence of information showing the contrary, I must, on behalf of the Attorney General, interpose objections to the implementation of Act 445 and Act 561.

Should you wish to present justification for the changes in election procedures provided for by the amendments, or propose procedures which will insure against racially discriminatory effects in their implementation,

the Attorney General will gladly reconsider his position. of course, as provided for by Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, you have the alternative of instituting an action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for a declaratory judgment that such changes in election and voting procedures do not have the purpose and will not have the effect of denying and abridging the right to vote on account of race or color.

Sincerely,

JERRIS LEONARD
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division