

As you may know, the statute amending provisions of Louisiana law dealing with the election and apportioning of police juries and the redistricting of police jury wards (Act No. 445 passed during the 1968 Louisiana legislative session) was submitted to the Attorney General pursuant to section 5. The implementation of this statute, along with the provisions authorizing the creation of special school board election districts not identical with police jury ward boundaries and also authorizing at-large elections for school board members (Act No. 511), were objected to by him on June 29, 1969, because of our earlier objection to the existing legislation. I must advise you that the Attorney General cannot approve your school board reappointment plan which creates special school board election districts different from the police jury ward boundaries. In the case of Lyle v. Love, 307 F. Supp. 374 (E.D. Miss. 1969), the court ruled that as a result of the Attorney General's objection to the implementation of a state statute authorizing at-large elections for boards of supervisors in Mississippi, the supervisors do not have statutory power or authority to provide for such elections.

This is in reference to the reappointment plan for the Natchitoches Parish School Board, which was submitted to the Attorney General pursuant to section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Dear Mr. Plummer:

Mr. Allen H. Plummer
Superintendent
Natchitoches Parish School Board
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457

DLM:RSG:clx
DJ 166-012-3

7. 9/1/71

SEE 2/19/71

Although we understand the difficulties a school board must overcome in drawing new election districts for a parish, we must conclude that the Attorney General of the United States is without power to supersede the Louisiana legislature by carving out exceptions for particular parishes.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. BORGAN
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division