



Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D. C.

APR 27 1965

RECEIVED

APR 28 1965

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Honorable George C. Wallace  
Governor, State of Alabama  
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Governor Wallace:

I would like to raise with you a problem regarding racial segregation in the operation of Alabama state parks and Alabama state liquor stores.

On August 11, 1964, the Department of Justice received a written complaint from a Negro citizen of Alabama to the effect that she was being deprived by the Parks Division, Alabama Department of Conservation, of the equal protection of the law by being denied equal utilization of the parks. In due course, this complaint was investigated by us and found to be meritorious. Our investigation reveals also that there were signs posted at one of the Alabama state parks designating a limited area as being for the use of members of the Negro race. It appears that Negro citizens have traditionally been excluded from the major state parks.

My recollection is that during your meeting with President Johnson at the White House you said that it was not generally true that the Alabama state parks were segregated, but that if any segregation now exists in the operation of the Alabama state parks, you would see that it was corrected.

Honorable George C. Wallace      - 2 -

Our concern, of course, is to be assured that the state parks are being operated in conformity with the requirements of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. I would therefore appreciate your advising me as to the following:

- (1) Whether the present policy and practice of the State of Alabama is to allow Negro citizens to use Alabama state parks and their attendant facilities and accommodations on a non-segregated basis;
- (2) That the State of Alabama no longer maintains any distinctions or discriminatory policies based on race, color, religion or national origin in the operation of the Alabama state parks and their attendant facilities and accommodations; and
- (3) That appropriate instructions have been issued to insure that in the future the state parks and their attendant facilities and accommodations will be operated on a non-segregated basis so that all persons will be allowed the full and equal enjoyment of these facilities.

I would appreciate hearing from you about this within the next week or ten days.

The Department of Justice has also received complaints from citizens in various cities in Alabama to the effect that they have been denied equal utilization of Alabama state liquor stores on account of race. Our investigation reveals that in some of the Alabama Alcohol Beverage Control stores separate areas have been designated for use by Negro patrons, and that in one city separate stores were operated for Negro and white patrons.

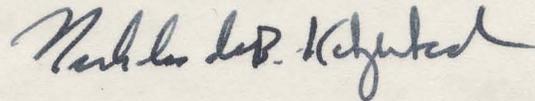
Governor George C. Wallace

- 3 -

Under Title III of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, I have a responsibility to see that such segregation practices by the State of Alabama are abandoned, and that public facilities are made available on a non-segregated basis. I would appreciate being advised whether the segregation practices have ceased and signs designating race have been removed in all of the Alabama state liquor stores; and, if they have not, whether you would be in a position to take the necessary corrective action.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nathan L. King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "N".

Attorney General