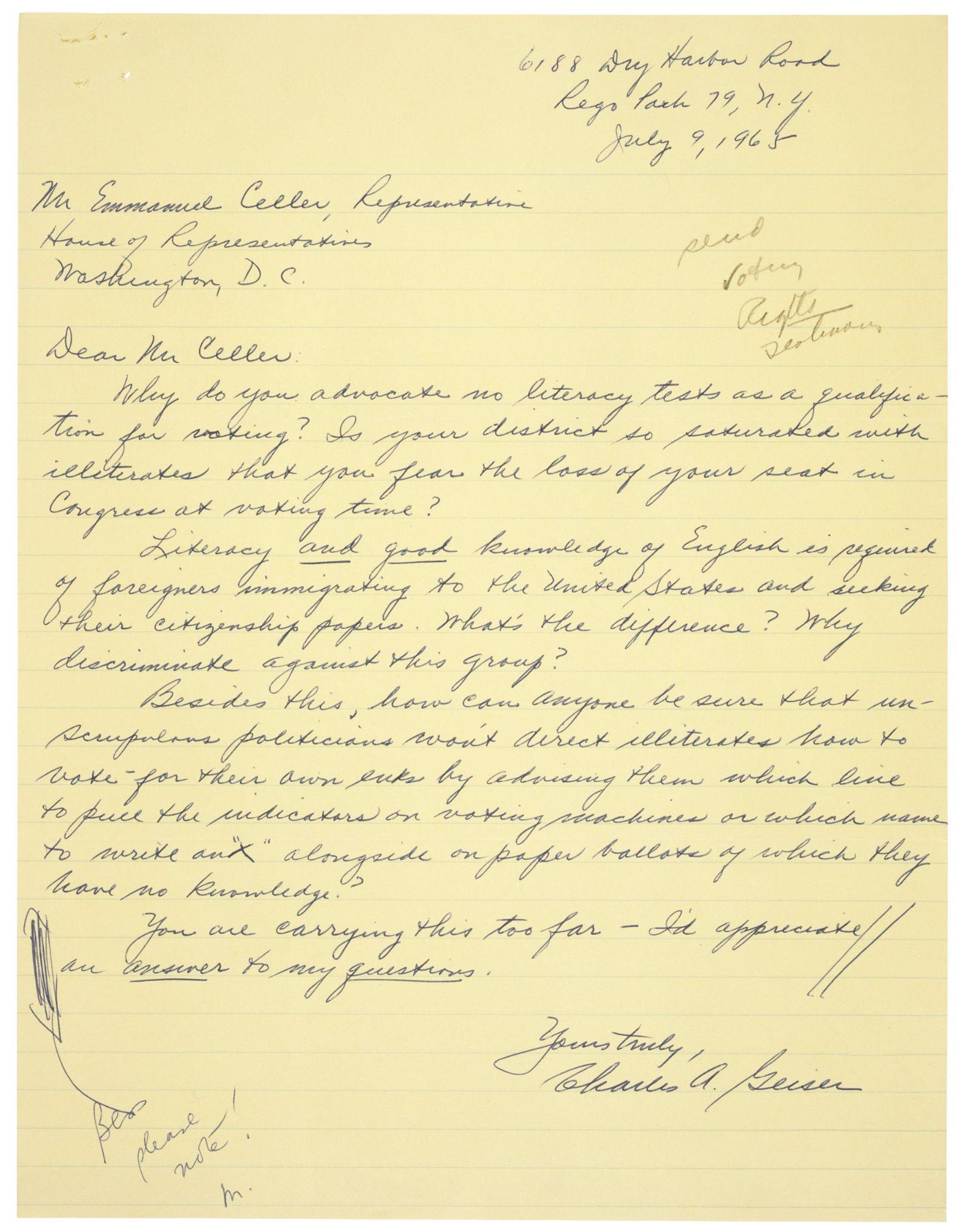
**Letter #1: From Charles A. Geiser (7/9/1965)**

[*https://docsteach.org/documents/document/letter-from-charles-a-geiser-to-the-honorable-emmanuel-celler-opposing-voting-rights*](https://docsteach.org/documents/document/letter-from-charles-a-geiser-to-the-honorable-emmanuel-celler-opposing-voting-rights)



*Transcript: Why do you advocate no literacy tests as a qualification for voting? Is your district so saturated with illiterates that you fear the loss of your seat in Congress at voting time? Literacy and good knowledge of English is required of foreigners immigrating to the United States and seeking their citizenship papers. What’s the difference? Why discriminate against this group? Besides this, how can anyone be sure that un-scrupulous politicians won’t direct illiterates how to vote for their own sake by advising them which line to pull the indicators on voting machines or which name to write an “X” alongside on paper ballots of which they have no knowledge. You are carrying this too far - I’d appreciate an answer to my questions.*

***Questions***

**What is the author’s perspective?**

That literacy tests are a good thing. They should be required to determine voter eligibility.

**Why was it written?**

To express a viewpoint on literacy tests and the Voting Rights Act.

To pose questions this citizen has on why members of Congress would want to pass such legislation and express concerns about what might happen if it is passed.

**How might the circumstances in which the document was created affect its content?**

Leading up to 1965, there were many people that held discriminatory views towards African Americans.

Maybe Mr. Geiser had first-hand experience with illiterate individuals or corrupt politicians and he was therefore projecting that experience to entire groups.

**What claims does the author make that may need further research?**

That the current requirements for voting (without the Voting Rights Act) were no different than citizenship requirements

If there is evidence to show that politicians have been trying to take advantage of voters in the past

**How does the document’s word choice indicate the author’s perspective?**

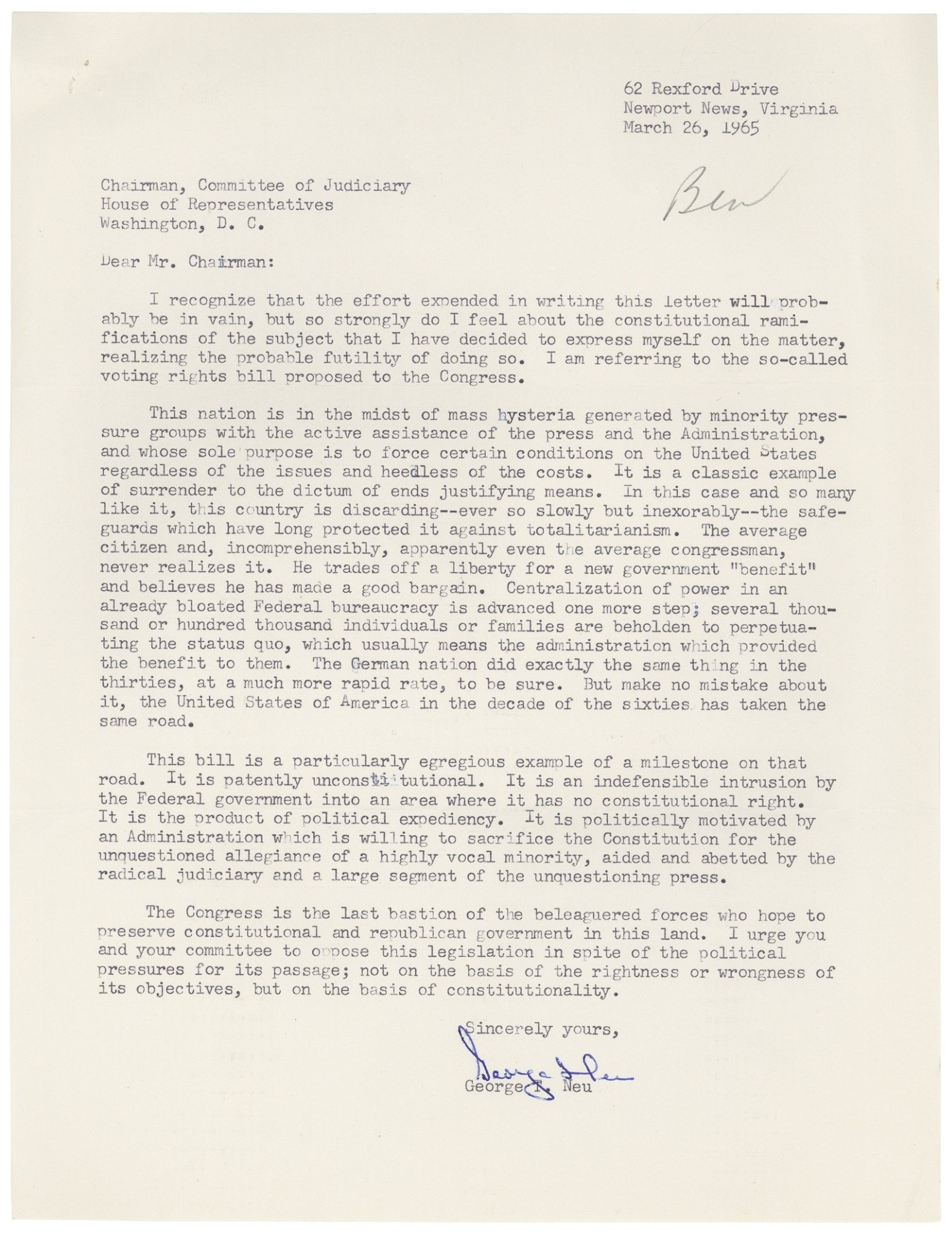
The author poses a lot of questions in his letter to show that he isn’t convinced about the merits of the legislation.

He underlines words like “and good” to emphasize that he finds literacy an important qualification for voting

“You are carrying this too far”

**Letter #2: From George Neu (3/26/1965)**

[*https://docsteach.org/documents/document/letter-from-george-neu-opposed-to-the-voting-rights-act-of-1965*](https://docsteach.org/documents/document/letter-from-george-neu-opposed-to-the-voting-rights-act-of-1965)

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***Questions***

**What is the author’s perspective?**

That the support for the Voting Rights Act comes from minority pressure and media; that safeguards against totalitarianism are being compromised; that the federal government is taking on too much power; too many individuals and families rely on benefits from the federal government

The Voting Rights Act is unconstitutional.

**Why was it written?**

He wanted to express his opinion on the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and urge members of Congress not to vote in favor of the legislation.

**How might the circumstances in which the document was created affect its content?**

Mr. Neu is from Virginia, a more Southern state

Mr. Neu may have grown up only knowing a United States that treated African Americans in a particular way

Mr. Neu may have heard similar arguments from local/state officials

**What claims does the author make that may need further research?**

“mass hysteria generated by minority pressure groups with the active assistance of the press and the Administration…”

“several thousand or hundred thousand individuals or families are beholden…”

“It is patently unconstitutional.”

**How does the document’s word choice indicate the author’s perspective?**

He uses a lot of strong language like “strongly do I feel” and “urge” to help show the importance of the topic to him. He uses sensational words and phrases like “mass hysteria” and references to Germany in the 1930s to incite fear. But he also writes things like “writing this letter will probably be in vain” which indicates he has the sense that Congress will support this legislation.