

834 Oakdale Rd. N.E.  
Atlanta, Ga. 30307  
19 October 1967

Hon. Ivan Allen Jr. Mayor  
City Hall  
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mayor Allen:

As you know, while I cannot be called a disinterested bystander, I have only the official position of citizen. I hope you will be willing, therefore, to consider some comments on recent events in the city.

The School Board has been subjected to some unwarranted attacks recently. Unwarranted primarily because they were not constructive in helping the educational system. As these attacks have continued, there is a pattern of development that seems to offer clues as to how it all came about. These are the clues as I see them.

As you know there are two members of the Board, Mitchell and Tate who have spent a great deal of time playing for one particular section of the votes. However, neither of them can even read a report and understand it, so by themselves, I don't think they could have started this. However, for a number of years Mitchell has been carrying all matters about the Board to Pascal. She, being fairly sharp, picks them over in a very one-sided manner and then Mitchell brings these back to the next meeting. Since Tate has been on, he has been in this too. Most of the so-called issues that have been raised are further distortions of these.

Now whose idea it was to present this package to the so-called Coalition I do not know, but I suspect Pascal. Whether it was presented to Johnson as a way to further his campaign for mayor or whether he thought this up is not immediately apparent.

In addition to this internal information, there is another matter. The Summit group asked to meet with the E.O.A. Neighborhood Council to enlist their support. Pascal was also there and from the minutes of the meeting that I saw, her remarks were anything from constructive or conciliatory. Now as I understand the function of the Human Rights Commission it is to help coordinate and explain the actions of government to the people effected and to help explain to government the needs and desires of the people. It seems to me that the Executive Secretary is not doing this at all but is attempting to organize a bloc to change the governing bodies. During this to-do all sorts of people have been coming out of the woodwork, like Gerald Reed, and I'm convinced the plan includes an almost entirely new School Board already selected by Pascal. How far she has gotten on the Aldermanic Board and other offices I do not know, but Massel has tried to get into the act, again quite unconstructively.

It is an interesting situation and as one of your staunch supporters, I think you should know that if it continues and is even partially successful, it can result in a very strange School Board. Most of the present members are completely disgusted with the situation and if it continues may not even run. The amount of time consumed has been enormous and, as you know, business people are already short of time. I think with those two exceptions, the Board is as good as a city can hope for and it the job becomes less attractive because of these completely unconstructive attacks, what will happen to our schools? The newspapers were particularly unhelpful in this sequence of events but, apparently even they are realizing that it is time to shut it off. Notice the Letters-to-the-Editor they are now printing. Since they only print those letters that agree with their position, I feel this is significant.

If you have gotten to read this I hope it has been a more efficient expenditure of your time than if I asked to come down and see you as I have in the past. However, as always, if I can be of any help in anything at all, please call on me.

Sincerely,

*LeRoy A. Woodward*  
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