

1506 P Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
September 16, 1966

Mr. Ivan Allen, Mayor
% City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Sir:

State for me just one thing that Stokely Carmichael did wrong. It is hard to find someone here who can.

Mr. Allen, you have tolerated the leaders of the Klan, and you have tolerated the Nazis. But you use the first slight opportunity you have to try to destroy Mr. Carmichael who simply has guts enough to speak his opinion. Stokely got under your skin; he hit you where you really hurt--by telling the truth.

I pause here to tell you I am not a racist. I am not a member of the organization you seek to hurt. But I am a Negro and my home is the South. When officials in towns like yours try to tell the nation that those towns are perfect, I can disagree because, Brother Allen, I have lived some of that Hades.

I give Stokely Carmichael credit for being a man. The opponents of civil rights cry for responsible Negro leadership. Stokely is a good leader. When it comes to leadership, he could tell the very Lyndon B. Johnson a thing or two.

Stokely is not a dumb man. You cannot step on his toes and expect him to keep quiet. Many people admire him for his courage; his name registers well in the hearts of multitudes. But the majority could still ask "Who is Ivan Allen?"

Brother Allen, Stokely Carmichael made you jealous--jealous that he is an individual who draws more publicity than you. When you speak of dissension between him and some of the other civil rights leaders, you know full well that they too are cognizant of