

September 30, 1966

OPEN LETTER TO IVAN ALLEN, MAYOR

Dear Sir:

We were never as shocked in our lives as we were when we read the cruel, childish, bigot remarks of the Mayor of the "great" City of Atlanta in your statement about the election of Lester Maddox as Democratic Nominee for Governor.

You know by now that you are among the minority who think the nomination of Lester Maddox for Governor is "deplorable", and as for the "seal of the great State of Georgia" being tarnished, such was the case when you were elected Mayor of Atlanta. On that date, the "seal of the City of Atlanta was tarnished" upon your becoming Mayor by the "colored" votes that elected you. The White People of the State of Georgia have spoken and you refuse to listen. Your opinion is only one against millions. You are denying all Georgians the choice of electing who they want to head the State. That, in our opinion, is dictatorship. If you and Martin Luther King are ashamed to be called Georgians, all we can say to you is this, "There is no fence around the State of Georgia and you are free to leave whenever you want to", and we are sure no one would be seen crying when you go, except your negro supporters. Maybe you can take them with you?



We do not appreciate being called ignorant! We make up our own minds, as do the majority of the people, for whom we wish to vote. You have the same right, but just because your "Golden Boy" didn't win, you act like a selfish child. We lost our votes when we voted for Mayor, too, but we didn't act like selfish children about it, like you are doing now. Mr. Allen, if you plan to "go fishing" on November 8th and Lester Maddox wins, which he has a very good chance of doing, you should keep your mouth shut and leave the choice up to the voters. This is what you should have done this time! We all know there is nothing worse than a politician who is lost, except a politician who sells his soul for a vote. We realize you are in a vulnerable position and that if you do not scream loud enough for the colored voters to support you in a bloc type vote, then you know you are lost as a politician.

YES, MR. ALLEN, we read your statement to the press, and you have had your "say". Now, we, as an independent group of people, not "backed" by any organization, feel we have the right to our opinions and to our choice as to who we want for Governor, AND WE ARE GOING TO HAVE IT IN NOVEMBER!!!

MR. ALLEN, WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?!!!

Sincerely,

*Mr. J. J. Kelly*  
*Mr. C. Moore*