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February 5, 1969

Mr. Alan Shaw  
136 Peachtree Memorial Drive, N. W.  
Apartment H-11  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Dear Mr. Shaw:

Thank you very much for your recent letter to Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr., which has been forwarded to this department.

I, too, sincerely appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention and you may rest assured a full investigation is under way regarding the use of the word "nigger" twice in the presence of out-of-town guests and tourists attending the Cyclorama lecture.

You are certainly right that there is a definite lack of sophistication and culture on the part of some of the Cyclorama lecturers. I hesitate to make this admission, but it is a fact and one that has been vividly brought to the attention of the City for many years. On one occasion when a vacancy existed at the Cyclorama, the Personnel Department somehow failed to list the salary in the want ads. The applicants who responded to the advertisement were well-groomed, educated ladies -- the type you would typically expect to run into when buying a plane ticket or renting a U-Drive-It. This is the type of employee we would hope to have at the Cyclorama, but the present salary schedule simply will not attract that type of person. I will say in some limited defense of the ladies presently assigned to Grant Park that they have, in most instances, displayed a keen interest in their work. Several of them have traveled (at their own expense) to meet various individuals who worked on the foreground and on the painting itself.

Each year we have approximately 300,000 paid visitors go through the Cyclorama and out of that number we will receive some six complaints in writing. This is six complaints too many, for I fully realize that for every citizen who will take time, as you have done, to bring a problem to the attention of the City, there are hundreds who are indifferent or who will not take the trouble. Thus, we stay constantly concerned about the conduct of all of our employees in the various eleven division of this department. The reoccurring



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complaint on the part of most visitors who do write us is that the attendants were "rude."

We have insisted to our employees, who were under Civil Service, that the Cyclorama is one place that most all visitors to Atlanta go. Thus, in many cases it is the only impression a stranger will receive of our community. For something to spoil this impression or to injure the rapport we know an out-of-towner feels with our City is simply tragic. I pledge to you a renewed effort on my part to see that the Cyclorama is operated in some quality manner.

Finally, you can rest assured that the Assistant General Manager of Parks for field operations will personally attempt to determine which lecturer used the word "nigger," and disciplinary action will be brought against that person.

Sincerely,

Jack C. Delius  
General Manager of  
Parks and Recreation

JCD:jw

cc: Honorable Ivan Allen, Jr., Mayor  
Mr. Pierce Whitley, Asst. Gen. Mgr. of Parks (w/encl.)