

September 27, 1967

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Collier Gladin

From: R. Earl Landers

Pardon my delay in answering your memorandum of September 13th. I think that recent statements by the Mayor will answer your question as to a possible bond issue in 1968.

As to the matter of seeking State legislation enabling us to issue general obligation bonds without a referendum, I offer the following confidential opinion:

I think it would be a mistake for such legislation to be approved as a Constitutional amendment for Fulton County for the reason that this would put Fulton County in a position to issue general obligation bonds contrary to our wishes and to the detriment of the citizens inside the City of Atlanta, without those citizens having an opportunity to approve such an issue.

I refer specifically to possible sewer issues by Fulton County. We have discussed many times the fact that it would be extremely unfair for Fulton County to finance its portion of needed capital improvements in the area of water pollution control by the issuance of general obligation bonds, 80% of which would be paid by the citizens of Atlanta, while those same Atlanta citizens are paying sewer service charge to pay the City's portion for such capital improvements. Under the present setup, Atlanta citizens would at least have the opportunity to disapprove the issuance of such bonds.

I think we should make every effort to defeat this Constitutional amendment for Fulton County, and if we should assume this position, we could hardly at the same time ask for such legislative approval for the City.

REL:lp