

Atlanta, Georgia
September 30, 1966

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
330 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Sir:

It may interest you to know that every time you open your mouth publicly that you throw at least 1,000 more votes toward Mr. Maddox. If you are truly concerned about the future of this state then take an extended tour of Europe until after the election.

The recent riots added greatly to Mr. Maddox's victory, also.

And if it gives you and other Negroes some masochistic pleasure to believe that all this is because of the white man's deep hatred for the Negro then by all means indulge yourselves, but don't set yourself up as a leader. There is an undercurrent of intense feelings and dissatisfactions running through the entire population, that is true. But it stems from many things, 1/100th of which may be a particular incident involving a Negro. People are angry about the high, high costs of living, about installment buying, about taxes, taxes, taxes, about government wastes, about the war. No matter how much they'd like to get off the merry-go-round they know they can't. They know that they must buy ever more and more to keep the economy rolling. They are constantly fed a diet of dissatisfactions through newspapers, magazines, television. In short the average citizen can't just sit down and just appreciate himself. He's pushed, pushed, pushed - toward what goal nobody knows.

The Negro merely becomes the object not the cause.

The election of Mr. Maddox was a symbol only of rebellion. The people of this state, however, don't really know how to think, so they don't even know what they are rebelling against. The need, though, to rebel is too great, and we are right now in a dire predicament, as you must surely realize.

Please take the time to really study the undercurrents in our population before you make any more public statements.

Sincerely,

A Native Georgian

C/O Mayor Ivan Allen