

C. R. M. Sheppard
P. O. Box 466
Tucker, Georgia 30084

Honorable Ivan Allen, Jr., Mayor
City of Atlanta
Atlanta City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mayor Allen:

I congratulate you on your splendid efforts to maintain racial harmony in the City of Atlanta. Your recent confrontation with rioting Negro mobs was most admirable. However, I am afraid that you do not understand Negro psychology.

On numerous occasions you have made reference to the grave injustices the Negro has suffered over the past 200 years - and this I cannot agree with entirely. The greatest favor ever done for the Negro was to capture him, take him out of the jungle and expose him to civilization - and incidentally, keep him from eating all of his relatives. These supposed injustices confer on him no right to murder, rape, mug and commit arson. If this were not true I would personally carry out a vendeta against society because General Sherman's men murdered my great-grandfather, his oldest son (16), burned his home, killed his live-stock and left a widow with three little children. This indeed was an injustice but it does not give the right to go to Chicago and throw bottles at the police force, kill local residents or set fire to the Conrad Hilton Hotel.

While on active duty, during World War II, we had a constant problem with Quartermaster Negro troops rioting after consuming a few bottles of beer. I was assigned the task of breaking up these Saturday night melees and I accomplished the mission in just two weeks. It was not done by talking nicely to these men, it was done however with a language that they understand. I urge you to use a firmer hand in dealing with these situations or face the alternative of losing complete control of the situation.

I am gravely concerned with the state of anarchy that prevails throughout the nation. Unless our political leaders exercise firm controls, without regards for the value of the Negro bloc vote at the polls, the United States is going to develop into an armed camp and we will all lose as the result of what will take place. Put down revolt among the Negroes as you would if white people were involved and you will overcome some of the deep-rooted and seething resentment that now exists.

With best wishes for your continued efforts in dealing with this gigantic problem, I am

Cordially yours,


C. R. M. Sheppard