

3420 Sheridan Drive  
Durham, N.C.  
August 4, 1967

The Mayor  
Atlanta  
Georgia

alvin  
& thurk

Dear Sir:

CBS News gave coverage tonight to the efforts of certain of your negro citizens directed towards the prevention of riots of the type which have occurred in certain northern cities. These men are to be commended for their apparent wisdom in realizing the inevitable effects of such riots and for their initiative and actions towards preventing such a riot.

Undoubtedly you are aware of the efforts of these people and perhaps your administration has had a hand in bringing it about. Regardless of the way in which it has come about, the actions of these men are worthy of recognition in such a way as to give them credit in hopes



it will serve to encourage their continued efforts and leadership development in this direction and also serve as a worthy example to be followed by the many citizens of their race in other cities, the majority of whom I am sure look with disfavor on such behavior.

Perhaps your Chief of Police, who is a member of the President's Commission to investigate the cause of past riots, can be influential in calling National attention to this approach. Unfortunately, the news media appear disinclined towards promoting good efforts and seem to like to dwell on the bad.

I hope the efforts of these negro citizens of Atlanta, which justifies my confidence in the southern negro, will be able to sustain your city from trouble when "Hokely" returns.

Yours respectfully,  
John F. Williams