

8 Berkeley Street
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

29 July 1963

The Honorable Ivan Allen, Jr.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mayor Allen:

Your testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee was the most superb statement on civil rights made since the time of Abraham Lincoln, and I am sure that it will go down in history.

These are the words of a man of great courage and true nobility of mind. I read everything the Times carried aloud to my two grown sons and a Harvard student from Little Rock, a Negro who is living with us this summer, and we all felt that you had established a watershed. We are deeply grateful to you.

My Senior Senator, Mr. Saltonstall, is fence-sitting on the public accommodations section of the Civil Rights Bill. I have just written to him, asking him to examine his soul in the light of your statement. I am convinced that public thinking, including perhaps the thinking of Mrs. Murphy, is considerably ahead of Congress in this matter.

Thank you, Mr. Allen. You are a great man.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard DeVoto

Mrs. Bernard DeVoto