

Allen Pledges to Help Negroes Get Met Tickets

Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen has pledged his support to Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr. in making tickets to the Metropolitan Opera Company's performances here next spring available to Negroes.

Mrs. King, representing the inter-racial Atlanta Committee for Cultural Opportunity, had sent a lengthy telegram to Mayor Allen to "call attention to some serious problems concerning the Metropolitan Opera Company's annual season in the city."

Allen replied by telegram, in which he said he is "thoroughly sympathetic with your desire to provide additional seats at Metropolitan Opera for the Negro citizens of Atlanta. It is my understanding that the additional 500 to 600 seats in the new auditorium will be distributed on an absolutely fair and equitable basis and every consideration given to Negro applicants. I will support your position and sincerely hope that it will be completely carried out by the Opera Association."

Mrs. King said Negroes were excluded from getting season tickets because white holders renew their seats year after year and there is a long waiting list.

"We are determined," she said, "not to submit again to the existing discriminatory practices of that association, regardless of where the Metropolitan Opera performs. We are confident that many of the Metropolitan Opera's artists will join us if necessary."