

1237 Poplar Grove Drive, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia, 30306

Senator Richard Russell
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

As a taxpayer, citizen and merchant in the free enterprise system of this country, I would like to inform you of existing conditions in this city. And since you are a representative of the people and in a position to clarify the underlying circumstances which I am about to relay to you. I call this to your attention:

- 1) An organization exists in Atlanta called the Southern Christian Leadership Council. Members of the S.C.L.C. Operation Breadbasket will call on merchants primarily with business in Negroe areas, interview Negroe employees without permission of the owner and question the owner about personal financial conditions.
- 2.) The representative of the aforementioned group proceeds to threaten the owner that if certain conditions are not adhered to, his place of business will be picketed and boycotted.
- 3.) Most of these independents are one (1) store owners with solely Negroe employees. The main threat of this group is that a woman Negroe cashier must also be employed with hours and wages stipulated by the organization. This type of intimidation cannot exist in a free, enterprising country as ours. These conditions bring back memories of Nazism and more recently Mafia tactics one reads about.

I beg and implore you to inform me if there are any existing

laws (federal, state, or local) to protect the independent merchant from this type of persecution. Most of these businesses are not in a position to comply with such outrageous demands.

All of us are trying to as hard as possible support the Economic Opportunity Program and all other local, state, and federal organizations of the said type by hiring solely Negroes and as many as our businesses can absorb. What more can we do?

I anxiously await reply and sincerely hope you will find the time to investigate this problem which has become a traumatic experience for all the independent merchants whose majority of trade are the Negroes.

Sincerely yours,