

July 21, 1967

Mr. Dillon Winship, Jr.
President
Georgia Highway Express, Inc.
2090 Jonesboro Road, S.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30315

Dear Mr. Dillon:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 11, 1967 addressed to Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr., concerning your gracious offer to assist in our recreation program and facilities.

I think you have an excellent suggestion in the use of worn out tractors as a play object for children. We have been considering for several weeks of acquiring an antiquated jet fighter plane and similar equipment and build a playlot somewhat like the John F. Kennedy Memorial Playground in Washington, D. C. Our problem at the present time is that of all the thirty some odd playlots that we have leased, we hold only a thirty day renewable leasehold and we pay no rent. Most of them are quite small and adequate only to accomodate a swing, slide, in some instances a portable swimming pool, and etc. It does not create too much of a hardship when we lose possession of a given playlot since the equipment is reusable at a permanent park installation or some other area. However, in the case of more unorthodox play objects we would be hard pressed to blend into our master park schemes such objects as P.T. Boats, jet fighters and tractors.

Being as candid as I possible can, there is another problem involved in using anything that is new and unusual in these disadvantaged areas. The problem is that many of the citizens of these areas consider that we use them as guinea pigs and never consider new equipment and facilities for them but merely use cast-off items. We have experienced this to some extent with our portable swimming pools. I believe a number

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of these people would consider a tractor just another piece of "junk" and would accuse us of trying to save funds in not buying swings, slides, jungle-gyms, etc.

Please let me give some more thought to how we might make use of your excellent suggestion and if I can find an area in size and location that it is suitable, I will so advise.

Again, both Mayor Allen and the undersigned deeply appreciate your personal interest and I am

Cordially,

Jack C. Delius
General Manager of
Parks and Recreation

JCD:lg

CC: Hon. Ivan Allen, Jr.
Miss Virginia Carmichael, Director of Recreation