

171 Grady Avenue  
Athens, Georgia  
October 1, 1966

The Honorable Ivan Allen  
Mayor of Atlanta  
Atlanta, Georgia

Sir:

This letter is in reference to your recent statement concerning the nomination of Lester Maddox as the Democratic candidate for Governor of the state of Georgia.

I agree that Lester Maddox is totally unsuited as a gubernatorial candidate. But it appears to me that your comments were not of a constructive nature; you tore down, but did nothing to fill the vacuum which you created.

While it may be a bitter pill to swallow, the fact is that one of two men--Lester Maddox or Howard Callaway--will be the next governor of Georgia.

Your statements seem strangely two-faced. You say that "We cannot allow our state's progress to be stopped and reversed by yesterday's mistake", but say later that you will probably "go fishing" on election day. These two statements cannot co-exist; if you do indeed "go fishing" on election day, the people of this state will surely remember the hypocrisy with which you spoke.

I am not registered as a Republican--I have always voted for the best man. Therefore I sincerely urge you to publicly support Bo Callaway for Governor. The failure of a man in high political office to support the candidate which he feels to be the best qualified in a political race solely because this candidate is affiliated with another party, is pure cowardice. Do not attempt to deceive yourself that the people of this state will not feel this way about it. You have renounced Maddox too strongly.

When a man's position and not his principles determines his policies, it is indeed time for new leadership.

The hour grows late. Will you allow partisan politics to stop you from helping the state of Georgia defeat Lester Maddox?

My hope is that you will reconsider the position which you have taken, and then publicly support the best qualified candidate--Bo Callaway.

Thank you for your kind attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Jerry S. Lorentz*

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