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CBS - CHANNEL 5
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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1961 NATIONAL HEADLINER MEDAL
"FOR CONSISTENTLY
OUTSTANDING EDITORIALS"



1961 FIRST AWARD—OHIO STATE
INST. "DEVELOPING INFORMED
CITIZENS IN ELECTION YEAR"

TONIGHT'S EDITORIAL

A WAGA-TV daily presentation

KEN BAGWELL
GENERAL MANAGER

DALE CLARK
DIRECTOR OF NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Friday, January 11, 1963

FILM
(Peyton
Road
Sign)

Peyton Road has become the symbol of failure for Atlanta, and we think it would be dishonest to put any other interpretation on it. Nearly everyone knows the grim story by now. There was evidence of a breakdown of racial barriers that would put Negro occupants in an all-white residential area. The "block-busting" technique was being employed. Efforts to work out an agreement failed. And Aldermen responding to appeals for emergency action, took it. They authorized a barricade on Peyton Road so it would not be a through street, and there it has stood since December 18. The stopping of through traffic to prevent the encroachment of Negro home buying, puts the spotlight again on probably the most serious problem Atlanta faces.

(Barri-
cade)

It is easy to get angry over a situation like this, and plenty of people have.

It is easy to take sides--and the views of each side are logical and persuasive. Getting angry and taking sides only puts us on a battleground--from which there can be no winners, only losers.

FILM
(Barri-
cade
Area)

The fact is that this barricade isn't going to solve the problem, and the sooner the factions on both sides agree to meet and work out a compromise the better it will be for them and the city. This isn't a "Berlin Wall" type of thing, and efforts to dramatize it and make wholesale propaganda with it can only make the problem greater. Atlanta's record doesn't deserve it. As Mayor Allen points out, similar problems have been worked out in 51 areas in 1962.

Our concern stirred by this Peyton Road controversy must be centered on the fact that the overwhelming lack of decent housing for the growing Negro population is simply not being met.

FILM We cannot forever keep our eyes closed to the fact that
(Negro nearly 90,000 Negroes are living in substandard housing
Slum where plumbing and sanitation facilities are not adequate.

And even worse--31,000 colored residents are living in what is officially designated "dilapidated housing",--that which is beyond repair and if they weren't giving cover to human lives they could only be--and should be--destroyed.

Despite these facts, and despite the fact that the population and the housing pressure grows greater every month, we have no promise of a major program--and no real sign of commitment by the city to develop one. Every piece-meal housing project of any size has been the subject of a battle royal, and voted down.

The alarm bell is ringing for this fast-growing metropolitan area, and the Peyton Road incident is only the symbol of a problem that is by no means confined to those residents.

FILM It's a grim reminder that we're fast coming to a dead-end
(Dead- on what already is a crisis. The planners, the Aldermen,
End the Mayor and County officials must move on this problem
Sign) in '63.

We must have public and private housing projects started soon or we may have a whole series of Peyton Roads.

WAGA-TV Editorial is
telecast weekdays:

7:15 A.M.
6:15 P.M. in PANORAMA
11:20 P.M. in 11th HOUR PANORAMA