

October 18, 1963

Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr.
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mayor Allen:

Even though I'm late, I wish to thank you for what you said before the Senate Commerce Committee, in Washington. I was born and brought up in Georgia and have been so grateful in recent years for the leadership which several people in Atlanta have given in the effort to give to all citizens their constitutional rights. I have long thought that what we need in our part of the country -- the southeastern states -- is leadership, constructive leadership. I think we are as intelligent and as willing to have justice done to all people as are persons everywhere. We are just tangled up with a lot of inherited ideas that make us prejudiced and emotional.

If persons in authority would help us to "see straight", I believe their following would be of surprising size, and I truly hope your statement is repeated many times, "...the elimination of segregation, which is slavery's stepchild, is a challenge to all of us to make every American free in fact as well as in theory."

Again, thank you for your true and helpful leadership.

Very sincerely,

Evelene Bowie

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