

Atlanta, Georgia

September 30, 1966

Mr. Ivan Allen, Mayor  
City of Atlanta  
Atlanta City Hall  
Atlanta, Georgia

My Dear Sir:

Just a comment regarding the present political confusion resulting from the selection of Mr. Maddox as the Democratic Nominee for Governor.

It is strange to me, that since this situation was directly brought about by the stupidity of the higher echelon Democratic Party members, you should be so upset at the results.

I am unable to understand and was not able to comprehend the support of Mr. Arnall by yourself, the Atlanta news papers, Mr. Mills Lane and numerous other influential Democrats when certainly there must have been someone younger, more well known, and actually more capable to support during this campaign. Atlanta and Georgia have changed considerably in the past few years. It is evident to myself even though I have been a Georgian for only the past six years. Georgia is a vigorous, ambitious, young state with considerable influx of this same type people into the state. Certainly they did not want to vote for this unknown to the relatively new forces in the state. They were looking for a young, vigorous, young man to place in the governors office. Why, were you and the other forces not able to offer them something better..... then Lester would not have gained so much. I am looking forward to following the campaign closely, trusting that Bo Calloway will now step forward and offer this state exactly what you and others should have help provide..... not sit back in your stew and rave and rant.

The vote for Mr. Maddox reflects the feeling of a great part of this country, including the presidency. People are disturbed, misled, forced into not only social, but also business situations they don't want and don't believe to be truly American. So, you and others throughout the State and Country can look for more upsets in the political fields because the people are upset. Your standing on the top of a car to plead with a group of wild ones was not courage.... it was stupidity. This same thing is what is bringing about the unrest, not the fact colored people are being given the Civil Liberties they deserve. . . . it is just ridiculous leadership and the condescending, weak kissing of elbows when actually they are breaking laws.

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I think it time a lot of us stood and took stock in what is happening, in Georgia, in the South and particularly in our entire America.

Mr. Dirksen would not support another Civil Rights bill this year. He is beginning to see the light. Others throughout the North are also..... why not right here where it has been going on for years?

One thing in closing, Mr. Mayor, you yourself should think..... for I doubt, if you were up for re-election tomorrow that you would win.

Sincerely,

*Robert Harper*

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