

Venice, Calif.
Sept. 9, 1966

Honorable Ivan Allen
Mayor, City of Atlanta
City Hall
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mayor Allen:

There are many words in the English Language, but none will describe your courage facing a mob as you did. Being a former Atlantian by birth, we used to call it "Sheer Guts". It has been a long time since I have felt so proud of being a former "Cracker" as I was watching you on television, I only wish I could have been there to help you.

Without regards to political feelings, I would like to compare you with some of our former leaders like Tom Watson and Gene Talmadge, you like they, was not afraid to do your duty as you saw fit. Georgia people are the greatest people in the world, no matter from what walk of life they come from, they are not afraid to fight, no matter what the odds are. They will fight without giving quarter to preserve our heritage and way of life. I cannot say the same thing about my present residence. Our Mayor could not be found around Watts. I felt like I lived in a town without leadership. The citizens were scared out of their wits. The reminded me of a bunch of chickens with their heads cut off. As matter of fact our whole leadership is found wanting. Of course we do not have leaders such as yourself, Dick Russell, Herman Talmadge, and Carl Sanders. Our citizens have political opportunists, not leaders. These people out here are trying to push Watts under the rug, they are appeasing them with more welfare, and taxing the hell out of the people who will work for a living. These people on welfare have even formed a union to get more benefits. They will tell you the white man owes them a living, and they want to live as well as the people who go out and struggle every day for their daily bread. We can keep going the way Los Angeles is going, and we will be working to support their whims, and they will laugh in your face.

I am not proposing we go out and kill anyone, but I am proposing they get out and work like other people for what they get. There are just as many deprived white people in the country as there are colored, but I don't see them out breaking windows and burning to get more out of relief. They may fight to get more for their labors, or try to create better ways to support their needs and wants, but these people want us to give it to them.

I will cite you an incidence, out here the Post Office is begging for carriers, they even send notices through the carriers asking if anyone wishes a position as a letter carrier, all I see in my area is white girls working with the mails, yet there are plenty of colored in the area. This is part proof they do not want to work, they want state relief, they get nearly as much money as they do working.

I blame the people out here, when I first came here, I heard people ridicule the south for their so called holding the negor down, but they had more segregated areas than Atlanta. Even today Culver City does not have a negro family living within it. I am not condoning they lift this restriction, but I do feel they should not criticize our people. I belong to Culver City Elks, and one day during one of the Civil Rights movement in Congress one of my brothers made a bad remark about filerbusting, plus other remarks about our people. I ask him if he really believed the southern people should accept them as equals, and did he believe it for himself, and should we equalize here, he stated he did, I said alright lets get started, if you believe it, I will back you up 100%, first I will go on the lodge floor and prôpose a circulatory motion that all Elk Lodges accept them, if you will second my motion. Of course he backed into a corner. People out here are two faced, they believe in it for you, but not for them selves, they are beginning to see the light.

I cannot see a solution to the problem, as my grandmother used to say, "You cannot make a silk purse out of a sows ear". We can pump money to them, we may as well pour water down a rat hole, we could give them all a nice home, and within a few years most of them would be rundown, and they would be back where they started. I do not believe as a whole they will ever pull themselves up to the white mans standards. After all they never done anything with Africa, or any other country they control, or could have controled. I am certain our forbears did not set up this country and work and bleed for it to turn over to a bunch of people who does not deserve it.

Again I want you to know you acted like a champion, and I am certain my admiration is shared by all people who appreciate a fighter like you, regardless of political feelings. I can still see that big golden letter sign on the front of your store on Peachtree when I was a kid. If I remember right you used to come to my grandfathers Bar-B-Q place in Buckhead, Tidwells, back in the 20's with Dick & Inman Grey, or maybe it was with Bill Munday, it has been so long and I was just a kid.

Thanking you very kindly, and may God Bless you.

Yours Respectfully

W.R. Morris
W.R. Morris