

The University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

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• THE SPEECH COMMUNICATION CENTER
of the Department of Speech

September 29, 1966

Dear Mayor Allen:

I just wanted to send along my sentiments for what they are worth to support your statement about the nomination of Lester Maddox which was broadcast on CBS television tonight.

I have been able to view your activities on nationwide television on other occasions--e.g., the Atlanta riots. From all indications I perceived you as a man who was honestly trying to do the best job he could. I also perceived you as a fair person who was willing to try to understand the views of others and to do something about the plight of the slum-dwellers--be they Negro or White. In short, I have been very impressed with what I have seen of your apparent attitude and action in times of crises and controversy. I am quite sure it is very hard on you at times to stand in the face of bigotry and hatred, but I wanted you to know that at least one person across the country wants to give you some reinforcement and to urge you to continue in your attempts to make Atlanta, and consequently America, a better place for a human being to live in.

Although I will most likely never have a chance to vote for you, I hope my encouragement for your stands and actions concerning the civil rights issues and this Maddox "tragedy" will act as a positive influence for your future behavior. Atlanta, and the nation, can be proud of you.

Sincerely,



Mark L. Knapp, Ph.D.
Speech Communication Center