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ATLANTA BONSAI SOCIETY

19 May, 1967

Senior Senator Richard B. Russell  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Russell,

I enclose copy of Mr. Barker's answer to our last letter (4-28-67) of which I sent you a copy at that time.

We do not want to make a political issue of this, but we do want Dr. Creech to know that we have the facilities and scientists here in Atlanta for all possible care against pests and diseases.

We have Dr. Buchanan, who is connected with the United States Forestry Service, in his office right in Piedmont Park, coordinating city, state, and federal pest and disease control.

We have Mr. B. Oortman, Chief Horticulturist for the City of Atlanta, with his office in Piedmont Park, and previously with Fraser's Nursery in Birmingham, Alabama, where many trees imported from all over the world were in his care.

We have Mr. Carl Scott, Jr., Head of the Entomology Division of Georgia Department of Agriculture, and his staff, on call at any time and making regular inspections.

We have Dr. Woolford Baker, professor of biology, from Emory University, and himself quite interested in bonsai; Mr. Fred Galle, Head of Horticulture at Callaway Gardens, vice-president of the American Horticulture Society, and among our own members: Dr. Osman-Hill of the Yerkes Primate Center, and Drs. Phelps and Miller of CDC.

Every single member of our society is vitally concerned with pest-control. One attack of borers can ruin a bonsai forever. It may live, but the beautiful shape attained after years of patient care and training is destroyed. Even an attack of red spider mites disfigures an evergreen for not less than 3 years and may kill it. Japanese beetle larvae are fatal to azaleas and even aphids cause serious virus trouble with quince and other members of the rose family.

We all strenuously use the most modern inventions of systemics, soil sterilization, and disease control, and we certainly do not want anything brought into our area which will cause us any grief. Our trees are too valuable in terms of both time and money to take any such risks. Bonsai are not like other plants left to grow themselves. Members inspect all their own trees daily while watering and grooming them.

Dr. Stephens himself, formerly connected with the U.S. Forestry Service, gave us much frequent advice on the use of systemics and hygienic measures, and was experimenting with MSD on his own trees at the time of his death.

We feel that it is an imposition on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden to take up their space, equipment and time when we have just as good facilities and qualified men here.

Also we want the people of the Southeastern Area to have the privilege of seeing a living bonsai-masterpiece, which is a work of art just as a sculpture is in its category. This is just one of many such trees for display which we hope to import through the years and must set the precedent of our caring for them ourselves.

We are also fortunate in having a climate very similar to that of Japan (so that the tree would be much better off, here, than at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden) and the art of Growing bonsai is becoming very popular here among the horticulturally discerning. (As you know, we have individuals in Georgia spending large sums for fully-automatic greenhouses to care for expensive camellias- they have their Camellia Society- also people devoted to azaleas, alpine plants, and fabulous collections of roses, who eventually find that bonsai-growing is the ultimate in horticulture.)

We feel, too, that Atlanta has been discriminated against in not being designated as an air port-of-entry, and that it would be a good thing for her economy for all kinds of air-cargo.

In short, we need you \_\_\_\_\_ to inform Dr. Creech of these facts, because in the vastness of agriculture problems, he may not be aware that Georgia has come to the fore in agricultural technology.

We are sending 3 copies of this letter, at his request, to Mr. Stewart Winn, Editor of "The Harvester", the Georgia Horticulture Society's publication with over 10,000 readers. Mr. Winn wants to send these copies to: Mr. Fred Galle, vice-president of the American Horticulture Society, Dr. John Creech, Director of Agriculture Research Service, and Dr. Henry Skinner, Director of the National Arboretum, because of his interest in making Atlanta an air port-of-entry for nursery-stock. We are also sending a copy to Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. at his request, because of similar interests, and a copy to Mr. Opey Shelton, President of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, knowing his concern with making Atlanta an air port-of-entry.

We know you are a very busy man, and little problems like this take as much time as big ones, but to us it is of paramount importance. We are sure that the development of our Bonsai Garden will add lustre to Atlanta's image nationally.

Knowing of your deep interest in Atlanta, Georgia, and the South, and the South's progress, we ask you: 1. to inform Dr. Creech, of the USDA, of our available facilities and thoroughly capable, above-named scientists, and 2. to help us have Atlanta recognized as an air port-of-entry and as a metropolis as progressive as New York City.

Thanking you in the name of the Atlanta Bonsai Society, the Georgia Horticulture Society, and all the people of Atlanta,

Sincerely,

(Signed) Larry Williams, Chairman of  
Committee for Memorial Garden