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House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1966

ATLANTA STRIFE

(Mr. WELTNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELTNER. Mr. Speaker, I join with other citizens of Atlanta in commending the prompt action and courage of Mayor Allen in quelling the disturbances of recent hours. Once again, he has demonstrated that high caliber of leadership which has earned for him a national reputation.

I am certain that all but a minute fraction of our citizenry view with abhorrence the strife and violence that has marred our city. No grievance—real or fancied—can justify mob action and insurrection. No conditions—however grim—can justify massed assaults upon law enforcement officers and fellow citizens.

The question comes in determining proper courses of public action to prevent future outbreaks. Obviously, the first duty is the protection of the persons and property of innocent citizens by the prompt and full application of the police power. Again, Mayor Allen deserves credit for his personal direction of the matter. Second, all persons guilty of law violations—in fomenting disorder, or in committing assaults—must be prosecuted and, upon conviction, punished.

Lastly, our need is leadership. We need leadership for constructive action in the extension of opportunities. And we need leadership against the destructive action of "black power." For despite quibbling over meanings, that term is consistently used as a call for violence and a summons to disorder.

Thus our need is for leadership throughout our community, and particularly among elected Negro officials. Men and women of good will, determined to continue the remarkable achievements of Atlanta, will not be deterred from that goal by the few in our midst who would halt progress in the name of demagoguery—be it white or black.

*Give a hand
Man,
[Signature]*