

During the past ten years Atlanta has experienced an economic growth rate that is rivaled by few American cities. To a large extent this was only possible because of an enlightened business and banking community.....the community that you gentlemen represent.

During this same ten year period Atlanta has also experienced a social development that is rivaled by few American cities. We can feel fortunate in that this has usually taken place in a peaceful and orderly fashion. This was only possible because of an enlightened black and white community that has grown with Atlanta.

We now live in a city where the population is almost 50% black *Negro*.

The continued economic growth of our city will depend greatly on the means by which the heretofore untapped resources of our black *Negro* citizens can be utilized.

The Community Relations Commission has recently initiated a project of vital importance to all of us. It concerns the further development of <sup>*Negro*</sup> black entrepreneurship in Atlanta. The Commission,

in developing this project, has as co-sponsors the Atlanta Business League's Project Outreach, *the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce,* the Atlanta Urban League, the National

Alliance of Businessmen, the Small Business Administration, the Atlanta Chapter of the NAACP and the Atlanta University School of

Business.

*It is our hope that as part of Atlanta's*  
Atlanta needs a public committment from you, its banking fraternity,

that you will, to an ever increasing extent, *lend your expertise,* grant high risk loans to

*business and banking knowledge, yes and even*  
competent black businessmen.  
*capital to competent Negro business people.*