

144 East 36 Street  
New York, New York 10016

September 29, 1966

The Honorable Ivan Allen  
Mayor of Atlanta  
City Hall  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mayor Allen:

Your statement today concerning the primary victory of Maddox only adds to my already high estimation of your integrity, honesty, and dedication to your job. I was born in Newnan, Georgia, in 1935, but moved to Washington, D.C., in 1941, and now live in New York City. My parents somehow managed to raise two daughters with no ethnic, religious, or racial prejudice. As I grow older, I realize what a remarkable feat this is, because they are southerners, and for many years the Negro has been considered inferior by a goodly percentage of southerners. My parents were also poor, and this, I believe, increases the incidence of racial prejudice in the south. Poor whites, I guess, need someone to despise and look down upon.

This Maddox victory frightens me. I am sure you must feel this way too. But I take solace in the fact that obviously there are people in Georgia who realize that you and the kind of people you typify should be in office, and hopefully if there are enough of your type, in time all these difficult times will pass.

I am very proud to say that somewhere in Georgia a man like you is in public office. I am sure there are many people in Georgia with a vote who feel the same way. So stick to your guns. We cannot allow the Maddox's to gain control. And know that at least one ex-Georgian is on your side completely.

Yours very truly,

*June Ellen Balsley*  
June Ellen Balsley  
(Mrs. Eugene D. Balsley)