

CITY OF ATLANTA



October 11, 1967

CITY HALL ATLANTA, GA. 30303

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IVAN ALLEN, JR., MAYOR

R. EARL LANDERS, Administrative Assistant
MRS. ANN M. MOSES, Executive Secretary
DAN E. SWEAT, JR., Director of Governmental Liaison

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr.

From: Dan Sweat

Subject: Report on Urban Coalition Meeting,
October 9, New York City

The meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Urban Coalition developed into quite a stalemate on the question of whether or not public policy positions should be taken by the group.

Most Mayors present - Lindsay, Cavanagh, Graham and perhaps Naftalin, as well as some Civil Rights, Education and Religion representatives felt the urgent necessity for the Coalition to communicate a policy position to the Congress on such pressing matters as the Welfare Amendments, Poverty Bill, etc.

Business representatives, notably Frederick Close and Gerald Phillippe, felt any policy statements issued as a Coalition on controversial legislation would jeopardize anticipated support for the Coalition by Business.

They were greatly upset by the Coalition's statement on the Clark-Javits Amendment to the Poverty Bill.

After a two hour debate the committee voted to adopt a policy which states: "The Coalition shall take public policy positions except where a substantial or intense disagreement emerges."

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What this all amounted to was a stalemate on the question of whether or not the Coalition, as an organization, will lobby for urban legislation.

I feel that it is imperative for the Congress to have an idea of the thinking of a group as potentially powerful as the Urban Coalition, but can understand the problem of the business representatives, who really cannot speak for any business except their own.

The Committee adopted a budget of \$100,000 for the period August 1, 1967 - January 31, 1968. (Copy attached.)

It also heard reports from the Task Forces on Local Coalitions, Communication, Reconstruction and Urban Housing, Equal Opportunity in Housing, Educational Disparities, Private Employment, and Legislation.

The Private Employment Task Force noted it planned to consider setting up pilot meetings in three cities, including Atlanta to consider methods for establishing private business coalitions.

The next meeting of the Coalition is scheduled for December 18, possibly in Detroit.

DS:fy