

JAMES S. BRIGGS
3459 Stratford Rd., N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia
September 11, 1966

Mayor Ivan Allen
City of Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia

Sir:

The Atlanta Constitution of Saturday, September 10, 1966 carried an article about the recent riot and included portions of a letter addressed to you by 14 organizations stating that, in essence, the community consensus ought not to become arrayed against certain individuals and organizations as a substitute for relieving the slum conditions which brought about the riots.

It is a complete perversion and distortion of facts for these 14 pressure groups to take the position that slum conditions caused the riots and none can know better than you who were there what caused the riots. Although not represented by any group or organization but one who continues to believe in a government of laws let me commend you for your statement that these instigators of violence be judged by our courts as law-breakers not urban reformists.

The peace and tranquillity of our citizens take precedence over reform and each should take its place before the bar. If violence, riot and insurrection are excuseable and are supported by the specious reasoning of self-appointed, not elected, organizations then to whom and to what agency can the isolated citizen look for protection? If a government of laws cannot be depended upon to preserve the peace and tranquillity of the community then one must question its responsibility and a government without responsibility does not deserve the support of its citizens. This, then, is anarchy.

My family of 5 joins me in thanking you for your courageous actions during the riot.

Sincerely,


James S. Briggs