

Dear Mayor Allen,

I just want to send along my apology for the actions of a few hoodlums in your city]the other night and to let you know their thinking is not the thinking of respectable citizens, Negro and White, in Atlanta or elsewhere. I for one, sincerely hope this incident will not dim your sights for Equality, nor reduce your efforts to make Atlanta the great city it can become. I'm certain the Good Will Committee hastily organized, is an indication of the strong desire of Atlantans to help you. I've been in at least thirty major Southern cities in the past four years and none, absolutely none, has yet reached the climate of good will that exists in Atlanta. The nearest in spirit and cooperation to Atlanta that I found, was Roanoke, Virginia.

You may not remember me but in 1961 the late Trezzvant Anderson, Reporter for the Pittsburgh Courier, introduced you to me and we chatted at your Mayoral headquarters for almost an hour. I recall so well you saying...."A few years ago I was an avowed segregationist but I know now, that we must get on with the job of building a greater Atlanta, a greater Georgia, a greater Southland, and thus, a greater America." Henry Aaron of your baseball team, is a good friend of mine, and he has said many nice things about you and your efforts to bring about equality for all people in the city. I also know you have been forced to bear considerable abuse, as has Ralph McGill and others, for your policy in this regard but you have held your ground. Please don't count this as flattery, I just want you to know you have thousands of friends across the country who appreciate what you have done in recent years. Moreover, we would not like to see you become discouraged.

I have been with the American Broadcasting Company, stationed at the United Nations, since 1962 but this letter is sent on a personal basis. Maybe one of these days we can arrange an interview to talk about the "Winds of Change" in Atlanta.

Good luck. I counted the late Branch Rickey as a good friend and was privileged to talk with him many times in the fifties when he resided in Pittsburgh. He gave me a copy of Frank Tannenbaum's book entitled "Citizen and Slave" and on the last page, in the last chapter he underscored the words.."We shall some day look back and wonder what the issues were all about". This I believe because there are Ivan Allens, Ralph McGills, Marlin Brandos, Burt Lancasters, Shelley Winters, Governor Scrantons, and thousands who believe that "God hath made of one blood all nations of menand we are His children, brothers and sisters all."

Sincerely,

*Malvin R. Goode*  
Malvin R. Goode

80 Howland Avenue

Teaneck, New Jersey