

C O P Y

Final File

Sept. 14, 1966

Editor
The Atlanta Journal
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Sir:

It's doubtful that you'll print this letter since you're obviously backing the City political machine, but you should know that the general public has nothing but contempt for the so-called loyal firemen.

Loyal to whom? Certainly not the citizens of Atlanta. They know the largest objection of the striking firemen is the lowering of qualifications the city has been insisting upon - even to the extent that men labeled as cowardly and unfit by the training school have been put to work! All of this, of course, brought on by the low salaries and long hours being unattractive to the quality of men needed.

In reality - the striking men are the men really loyal to the people - they are willing to put everything they have, as individuals, in jeopardy, in order to keep Atlanta's Fire Department on the professional level a city of this caliber should have.

These so-called loyal firemen are simply afraid of fighting for what they know is right - fear of losing a paycheck - or an opportunity for a promotion - and in some cases, hoping to get an unearned position by default. In other words, the weak members stayed on the job - refusing to even back up the men fighting for them! I hope there are no fires involving lives because these men won't take a risk.

Five-hundred fifty men are by far the majority. They couldn't be all wrong!

I wonder how Mayor Allen can face the citizens knowing he could have averted this situation by simply letting a Judge decide the issue. His pride has Atlanta in a dangerous and serious situation.

Sincerely,

Mrs James Raza
Lithonia, Georgia