

SAM ADAMS DORSEY

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ATLANTA 9, GEORGIA

September 9, 1966

Dear Ivan,

When I passed the time of day with you on the C & S corner the other day, I never dreamed you would be embroiled in a riot in Atlanta that afternoon.

An angry mob, incited as they were, is very terrifying and it did take great courage for you voluntarily to engage personally in quelling it. The purpose of this letter is simply to let you know that I am proud of you and proud to know you. Ivan, you get lots of advice and suggestions from everybody, most all of whom are much smarter and better informed than I am. Some fifteen years ago when you considered running for governor, I did suggest that it was a mistake to stand "four square on the county unit system".

Now I can't refrain from suggesting that it is a mistake to try to prosecute Carmichael and "put him away" for a number of years. At this time you are riding the crest of the wave. The negroes themselves are undercutting Carmichael. Every time he opens his mouth you go further ahead and he loses more. Everythink is going for you. I would surmise that the case against Carmichael is, to say the least, nebulous but win or lose the case, prosecuting him is, I believe, bound to bring some sympathy. Why make a martyr out of him? Someone else will take his place and jailing him won't really resolve the big issue. This is really not intended as advice but simply my reaction as an admittedly uninformed and unofficial observer.

~~What a pity for talking so much~~

You are a great man.

Best regards,

*Sam*

P.S. Perhaps you had nothing to do with the decision to arrest Carmichael - ?? I talk too much - S.A.D.