

CHARLES CHRISTOPHER McGEHEE

16 E. Jones Street  
Savannah, Georgia

The Honorable Ivan Allen, Mayor  
City Hall  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Ivan:

The riots in Atlanta this week were one of the most unfortunate developments in the history of our native city, but I want to compliment you on your splendid handling of this difficult situation. Your judgment and courage were admirable and when I speak of courage I am not speaking of the fact that you merely went into the middle of the mob, but I am speaking particularly of your courage in taking the position that you took during the riot as well as in your handling of the situation later. I believe that your actions will have a tremendous influence for good with the civic and state authorities throughout the nation.


All thinking men who are not so terrified of a block vote that their backbone disappears, know that everything that we cherish in this country is dependent upon law and order. It seems that some of our northern cities should be in the "banana republics", and I am particularly gratified to see that your firm hand has been strongly approved by the northern press as well as the Congress. It is also gratifying to see that so many of the right thinking negroes, particularly in Atlanta, have thought that you handled the situation well.

I think that your Atlanta Congressman made a very good statement when he said that no matter how we quibble about the meaning of "black power", it inevitably leads to violence. Fortunately, very few of either race believe in "black power", "white power", or any other kind of power that connotes violence.

I remember that two weeks ago when we were sitting on your porch at Toxaway you, laughingly, told how a man in public life grabs the newspaper early in the morning to see what they are saying about him, so I know you are happy about what you have read. And let me add, that when this happened I was in Florida and the press there was unanimous in your favor.

Mary joins me in best wishes to you and to Louise.

Sincerely,

  
Charles C. McGehee