

Communications

LOCAL 3204



Workers of America

522-8171
807 HENRY GRADY BUILDING
26 CAIN STREET, N. W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303



September 22, 1966

Honorable Ivan Allen, Jr.
Mayor
City of Atlanta
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of September 9, 1966 and the Meadiator's Report of The Atlanta Firefighters Union, Ind., and The City of Atlanta. You state that paragraph 5 of the Resolution contains a misstatement that I might like to correct. Does paragraph 5 contains a misstatement? Doesn't Dr. Harrison on page 3 of the Meadiator's Report lead all of us to believe that had it not been for the legal opinion he would have suggested an immediate increase in wages or a reduction in hours?

Doesn't Dr. Harrison bring this out clearly in the second paragraph, page 3, when he states "On the other hand, I recognize that the legal opinion, though provided by a most distinguished and competent Atlanta firm has no legal standing."?

I believe Dr. Harrison, had it not been for the legal advice and, "along with the rather narrow restrictions placed on him by the resolution" would have recommended, and did believe, that an immediate increase in wages or a reduction in hours was right and proper.

It is my belief and the belief of those interested in the resolution passed by this Local Union that you and the Board of Alderman are attempting to hide behind a technicality of the Charter in an effort to destroy organized labor insofar as the City of Atlanta is concerned.

Honorable Ivan Allen, Jr.
September 22, 1966

I believe you and any other right thinking citizen of this area realizes that when everyone admits that the employees of this city are underpaid, that you must be fighting something altogether different than a mere violation of the Charter.

Sooner or later the citizens of Atlanta will awaken to the fact that two or three firemen in a firehouse is not adequate fire protection. Sooner or later these same citizens will realize that the experience of more than 400 firemen can not be replaced by January 1. This will be realized sooner than expected when the insurance rates for the City of Atlanta are hiked due to this inexperience and inadequate coverage.

Since you had a suggestion that I correct the misstatement of the resolution of this Local let me give you this advice, give the firemen a raise and get them back on the job! A great Mayor of a great city can find a way and the means without violating a Charter.

Sincerely,



LAWSON A. SEWELL, President
Local 3204, C. W. A.

LAS: fha