

September 30, 1966

Mr. Ivan Allen, Mayor  
City of Atlanta  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mayor:

May I take this opportunity to express to you an opinion of your speech made last night to the television audience of WSB-TV.

What small respect for you that I had become nil with the remarks you made to the public that night. For your information, it was not the "stupid" people of Georgia who voted for Lester Maddox and elected him the democratic nominee for Governor, as in essence you did imply that those who voted for Maddox were stupid. In my opinion, and the opinion of many others, it is you, Mr. Mayor, the Atlanta newspapers and the WSB-TV officials who are the more stupid of the flock. Had you left well enough alone, and sat quietly in your padded seats, the voting majority of this state would not have voted previously, and would not vote in the General Election for Maddox. It riles people (stupid or otherwise) to be told by a public service organization or a "public servant" what to do, and that my dear mayor, is exactly why the old proverbial "worm turned".

There are many smart, intelligent and fine people in this state who voted for Lester Maddox. It is not the same in Georgia as when Eugene Talmadge ran for Governor and was elected by the old county unit system. People know what they want, and they don't want you or any other public official telling them they are too stupid or ignorant to know what they want. You were elected as mayor of the city of Atlanta by some of these same stupid voters. What's wrong? Are you perhaps a little jealous of the man you trampled in that election, as being elected to a higher office? It could possibly mean that in the very near future you might have to call on the governor of Georgia for help in quieting down a little skirmish such as the one we had in Atlanta not long ago. Wouldn't it be wise to come down off your soap box and take a long look in that direction?

As a voter, (and perhaps one of the clan as labled "stupid") I would like to say to you, as the mayor of our fair city, " I really believe that you have "mest in your nest". Good luck to you in your future endeavors.

Sincerely yours,

*Mrs. John Doe*

From one who did not vote for Maddox,  
but will the very next chance I get.