

February 13, 1969

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr.

From: Dan Sweat

Subject: Urban Coalition

In determining whether or not a formal "Urban Coalition" should be established in Atlanta, I feel the following points should be considered:

1. The National Urban Coalition will apparently be a key communications link to the Nixon Administration. Whereas in the past, the heavily Democratic dominated National League of Cities and U. S. Conference of Mayors have enjoyed a key position in national administration affairs, they might not have quite the muscle with the Republicans. John Gardner does have.
2. It is abundantly clear that the Nixon Administration intends to funnel as many urban programs as possible through the private, business sector. This will require some sort of coordination among business and government at the local level and metro level.
3. There probably will be a greater need and demand for an identifiable local coalition after you leave the office of Mayor. The next Mayor certainly won't be the leader of the "power structure" and probably not even a member of it.
4. If a real coalition is formed, it must be done by the "power structure" and supported by the very top leadership.
5. A meaningful coalition should attempt to get metro representation. If it is to set the rules for the city in the future it must be geared to influence annexation, dispersed housing, planning for industry, transportation, etc.

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6. Someone should look into the Winston-Salem Urban Coalition. They have already raised \$1.7 million for coalition activities, plus some \$2.5 million for a Housing Development Corporation. I understand they met the other day and raised \$120,000 for summer programs. If we had just a fraction of that kind of money to "sell" projects, we could multiply it many fold.
7. I envision an Urban Coalition whose membership would consist of every organization wishing to identify with it and which would get together as a whole at one big annual dinner. A small executive committee of power structure "statesmen" would set the policies and priorities between annual meetings and communicate to the community through a small high powered staff.

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