PRODUCTS

September 8th, 1966

Mr. Ivan Allen, Jr. Mayor of Allanta City Hall Atlanta, Georgia

It's too bad, Ivan ...

...that some of the leadership among our negro communities in large urban cities do not use their heads instead of the imported, irrational stimulation of some of the people who have been formenting disorder and anarchy. As I read the Tribune in Chicago yesterday and today and saw your good appeal to reason on TV last night, I was proud of the fine way you have been trying to handle a very difficult situation there in Atlanta.

... Here in Chicago as the President of our Chicago Federation of Settlements I have been in a way, very closely related to our West Side Riots and the many other situations that grew out from the efforts of Martin Luther King and his cohorts here in Chicago. My heart goes out to you, Ivan. I know that the situation is one that reason alone could cure. But, with the rebellious demands for immediate results it is impossible to do much to solve the situation. Undoubtedly you will have to go the political route and use federal money and other wasteful expediencies.

... It is a pity that our friends in the negro community could not realize that the biggest problem lies in their own inadequacy and shortcomings of personal development, which make them less useful as employees, good citizens, and good neighbors. These problems take more than riots and demonstrations to correct. Unfortunately even ten years of crash programs will not solve a cultural lag, lack of skill or illiteracy.

... I hope that our two Settlement Houses in Atlanta have been of some use in your situation. I feel certain that the Bethlehem Community Center and Wesley House Centers would be of solid help if they are in the location where any of your trouble exists. Their trained Social Workers can help your police a lot.

... In closing, please consider this a warm hand shake and best wishes

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from all of your friends here at Aigner Company. I am sure I speak for all of your friends in NSOEA.

Al Aigner, President G. J. AIGNER COMPANY

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Enclosure