

from

HELEN BULLARD
Consultant

July 29, 1963

PERSONAL

Dear Ivan,

I have just sent you a most inadequate telegram but after trying all week-end to put down something that would convey what I really feel, I finally gave up.

When we were children, we used to play a game called "May I?". The leader would say, "You may take a baby step" and you would say, "May I?", and the leader would say "You May" and you would take it. Sometimes the leader would say very grandly, "You may take a giant step!" and those were the shining moments. I have the awed feeling that "SOMEBODY" said the same thing to you and that SOMEBODY was either your conscience or it was the grammar school teacher under whom you memorized "My strength is the strength of ten" ... or maybe it was one of those rare things of a person sensing that it was the thing to do. I have no way of knowing but whatever it was, it was your finest moment.

The other thing I wanted to tell you was that I was not only proud of what you did but how you did it. If you had hedged or if you had compromised.... but you didn't and your testimony had the same effect that Mr. Kennedy had when he said, "We do this because it is right."

It may be our salvation, this lesson of learning that right has a tangible weight.

I am deeply proud of you and I wish this letter could more adequately tell you how proud. I do not think that any action by any elected official in the South has ever taken the courage that this must have taken and in the scheme of time, this is no small thing.

Sincerely,


Helen Bullard

TOOMBS, AMISANO & WELLS
Architects & Engineers

70 Fairlie Street, N. W., Atlanta 3, Georgia, Telephone 524-2801