

July 13, 1968

Office of the Mayor  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Sirs:

I am interested in finding out whether or not Atlanta has any kind of "local development corporations" similar to those in Roxbury, Massachusetts; Washington, D.C.; or Oakland, Calif.

A local development corporation is an organization of poor people designed to improve their economic status by helping them to achieve ownership of their homes and businesses.

(2)

As a legal entity, the corporation is able to obtain funds from private or public sources, which is then used for building homes or starting businesses for poor people.

The plight of the poor in this nation has received much publicity in the last few years. Often the poor also have black skins - so that their situation is compounded by racism and prejudice.

I understand that Atlanta has done much to break down the barriers between white and blacks, bringing about some form of communication between the two groups. But



I was wondering whether or not this communication also included some kind of an attempt to better the economic plight of the poor - not only by giving them jobs but helping them to gain economic power as well.

I realize this letter is hasty - but I want to know whether or not you have any kind of a local development corp. because I am interested in talking to the people who run it. So, I would like to know the scope and intensity of such an organization - how big it is both in

④

numbers of people and in numbers of dollars that it has to work with.

I am presently an undergraduate at Stanford University. I am thinking quite seriously of going to business and/or law school so that I could one day work with some kind of a development group. It seems that the way things are going in this country that "this is where it's at" — the poor must be allowed to have some kind of an economic stake in our society through



the ownership of their own homes and businesses, of the present state of exploitation exists - we can only count on seeing more violence and bloodshed - of both blacks and whites.

I know that you receive much mail so that it takes a while to respond to incoming letters. However, I will deeply appreciate your answering this as soon as is feasible.

(I am sending a similar letter to the Chamber of Commerce.)

Respectfully,  
Natalie Stronbeck,  
4781 - Old Dominion Dr.  
Arlington, Va. 22207