

Sept. 7, 1966

Ivan Hill  
Mayor  
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mr. Hill:

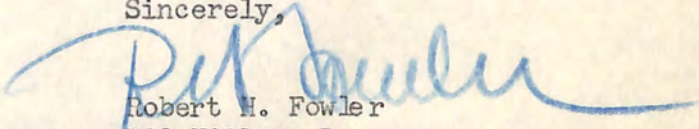
You and many of your fellow mayors have really been on the firing line in the racial disorders this summer.

Of all the people involved, as seen on television, you strike me as having acquitted yourself with the most courage, dignity, and responsibility. It took real guts to go down in the midst of a riot and to stay there until it was over. And then to talk about it in a calm and dispassionate, even compassionate way. Atlanta is lucky ~~me~~ to have you.

I'm a born-and-bred North Carolinian who has lived in Pennsylvania for 10 years now. I've often been embarrassed by the conduct of white Southerners these past few years. But I'm proud of you.

Our Negro fellow Americans are going to try our patience for a while. They and all Americans are lucky to have courageous public officials like you on hand to keep order without resort to cruel oppression; to press for progress without caving in to emotional excesses and unrealistic demands.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Fowler  
703 Hilltop Dr.  
New Cumberland, Pa.