

Oct. 3, 1966

Dear Mayor Allen:

I want to commend you for the manner in which you handled the recent racial riots. A less cool-headed man might have handled it differently which would have had disastrous results. However, I must be critical of your statements regarding Lester Maddox's nomination for Governor. I agree with you completely in all that you said about Mr. Maddox but I don't think a man in your position should have said it. It has helped Maddox rather than hurt him and he is strong enough without giving him any more help. The riots helped Maddox and were badly timed. I'm in sympathy with the Negro because he has been held back, but rioting and violence have left a bad taste in the mouths of white people. Some of Maddox's vote was caused by the white backlash and a lot of people voted for him thinking he would be easier for Callaway to beat than Arnall would. I think these people have outsmarted themselves and that Lester Maddox will win. Many Democrats will vote for him because he is the party nominee and he is strong in the rural areas. I think it is regrettable that Sen. Zalmadge and Gov. Sanders are

campaigning for him. He has absolutely no qualifications and I will never vote for him for any public office. He will put Georgia on the same level with Alabama & Mississippi but irresponsible voters will elect him any way.

I hope that you and the Atlanta newspapers will refrain from denouncing him as much as possible because it brings him more into the limelight and enhances his chances. After all you may have to work with him if he is elected and I predict that he will be. The Journal's endorsement of Ellis Arnall didn't help him one bit.

We can only hope and pray that there are enough thinking voters who will vote for Callaway as the best man regardless of party because Georgia deserves better than Lester Maddox.

yours very truly,
Mrs. Joan Little