

Mr. Robert E. Staples
483 W. Central Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101

September 8, 1966

The Honorable Ivan Allen, Jr.
Mayor of Atlanta
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mayor Allen:

I was deeply dismayed at your statement that the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee was responsible for recent riots in your city.

As Attorney General Katzenbach stated to a Senate Committee, riots are caused by racial discrimination, poor housing conditions and police brutality.

Blaming one organization for the turmoil will do nothing to alleviate the real contributing causes for riots.

Negroes will no longer accept charges of Communist influence, hot weather and instigation by civil rights leaders in place of action toward eliminating the real causes of riots.

Therefore, it is your duty to cease blaming civil rights leaders for starting a riot in your city and begin positive action to avert a reoccurrence of this terrible event.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Staples