

July 26, 1963

Mayor Ivan Allen
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Sir:

I am not a person who habitually writes letters, nor am I an uneducated race baiter. However, I cannot help but say to you that I think you are a disgrace to Atlanta. It is very evident to all concerned that you are willing to undermine one of the basic freedoms of our country in order to gain the Negro vote.

Anytime a man puts his money, time, sweat and tears to building a business he has the right to serve and hire whom he pleases. If his conscience does not tell him to serve Negroes, Whites, Yellows or whatever, that's his privilege under our American system.

I am for freedom for everyone, but you can't take freedom away from one person to give it to another.

Long may our American freedom live in spite of the likes of you.

Sincerely,

Mary Farmer

P.S. What you actually advocated in Washington today was law by threat and blackmail.