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Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53222
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Ivan Allen, Jr., "Mayor"
"City of Atlanta"
Atlanta, Georgia

Seems to us we have been reading in the press these days about a shift of a major league franchise better known as the "Braves" to a "city" called Atlanta. Somewhere in our geography lessons we learned that this was a city down in a state called Georgia, the land of peaches and peanuts.

Well, at any rate, we've been reading a few quotes of yours in our papers here, and to say that we have been amused beyond description is putting it mildly. To refresh your memory, here are a few.

"Today we welcome the opportunity to become a symbol of southern zest and drive, a major league city, a major league state, and a major league region." Man, this Atlanta must be quite a place! After all the shenanigans which have gone on between Atlanta and these young owners of the Braves and the methods used to effect the transfer of the franchise to Atlanta, about the best we can say is that the whole business is strictly bush-league. As for the above quote, up here in Milwaukee we call it BALONEY! And quite a mouthful at that! Careful now, don't choke.

Another quote. "I don't think anything has been handled more properly and more above board. It is recognized that when a city loses attraction for the club, it moves out." Come now, Ivan, you don't really believe that do you? You couldn't! Don't you know that from 1903 to 1953 there were no shifts in franchises until the big money boy from Boston moved his club to Milwaukee in '53? And really, there is no comparison with that move to the present luring of the Braves to Atlanta.

During these years the minor leagues flourished to a reasonable degree, but once fellows like Stoneham, whose attendance in San Francisco this past season was nothing to shout about, and O'Malley whose Dodgers collapsed this year, and Charlie Finley, whose A's found it easy to land in the cellar, when these fellows decided to head out in other directions, then came the gradual decline of the minor leagues. If that last statement of the above quote is true, then baseball can start screaming, "Look out below!" It's on the way down and out now.

Another quote. In congratulating Atlantans for their courage in building an 18 million dollar stadium you have been quoted as saying, "They represent the new, dynamic south which is no longer willing to be side-lined on the back benches." Wow, are those vote-getting words. You ought to be a sure-fire winner in the next election with statements like that. Yes, sir, Ivan, I'll bet they really love you down Atlanta way these days.

To continue. "Our stadium is a southern project, built on southern soil (No kidding), with southern money, by southern occupants and contractors. We feel it is uniquely fitting that this decision has been made which marks almost exactly the centennial of the day when Atlanta was left an ask-strewn ruin, symbol of a region's defeat." Isn't that tender! It almost drives one to tears.

How does it happen that Lou Perini isn't building your new ballyard? Of course, he needs the money like a moose needs a hat-rack, but after all, isn't Louis one of the owners of your new club? But that wouldn't look good, would it? There are a few things we have to keep on the level, aren't there?

And those words about "the centennial of the day when Atlanta was left an ash-strewn ruin, symbol of a ~~marathon~~ region's defeat." Those words could prove to be providential. You could get the same shoddy treatment from these young owners that we received, and after they have "bled" you for all they can, they're just apt to dicker under the table a year in advance with some other unsuspecting city. Then you too will have a defunct ball pasture like we'll have. We're planning on bringing back donkey baseball. What'll you have?

Back in 1959 when John Quinn, now General Manager for the Phillies, saw the light and left the Braves, the Braves brought in a guy by the name of John McHale as General Manager. At that time a respected and influential citizen of Detroit supposedly said, "The greatest day in Detroit baseball dawned when McHale left Detroit and went to Milwaukee." Well, from that day on the fortunes of the Braves were never in sorrier hands. Now Johnny boy is leaving Milwaukee. Hallelujah! And with him will go a couple of little boys from our neighboring state to the south. Good riddance! In our last will and testament we bequeath them to you, with the hope that you won't be "taken" like we were. So be careful and insist on a contract for at least thirteen years so that you can at least pay for your new stadium.

We understand you also made a pitch for the St. Louis Cardinals of the National Football League, but weren't successful. Must be the Bidwell boys "smelled a rat" and wisely snubbed you. We understand you had a tremendous crowd for an exhibition game the Cardinals played there, and a worse crowd when two teams of the American Football League played a game there. Where were all those Atlantans who, as you supposedly said "represent the dynamic south?"

And finally, don't forget that chubby little rascal Warren Giles, the so-called President of the National League. What a boy! With all the hot air he throws aroundm he reminds us of a central heating plant. In him, Ford Frick, and Joe Cronin baseball has the highest type of poor leadership. When baseball establishes its "Hall of Ill-Fame", we can tell you who will head the list.

With everlasting sympathy to the players on the club, we remain

Very sincerely yours,

Former Braves Fans