

Decatur, Area Mayors Blast Allen On 'Rights'

Decatur Mayor Jack Hamilton says Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen was not "speaking for a metropolitan city of 1,000,000" when he told a senate committee the other day that "his people" favor the public accommodations section of President Kennedy's proposed civil rights legislation.

Other mayors of the area commonly referred to as Metropolitan Atlanta, for which officials of the City of Atlanta often purport to speak, agree with Mayor Hamilton that Mr. Allen was off base.

The population of Atlanta proper is 504,000.

In a statement Wednesday, Mayor Hamilton, who is the Fifth District director of the Georgia Municipal Association, said Mayor Allen's testimony at the senate hearing was "ill timed and unfortunate."

"If Mayor Allen was going to speak for the metropolitan area of a million or more, which includes Decatur, it would have been well to have checked with all of the municipalities before presuming on their position," he said.

Think He's Nuts

Other DeKalb mayors who were asked by The New Era to comment disagreed with the Atlanta executive to a man.

"Ivan Allen is nuts," snorted

one DeKalb mayor.

"Mayor Allen was speaking as representative of a minority group in the City of Atlanta. His statement definitely does not represent the sentiment of the metro area," commented Mayor Ois Stephens of East Point.

Not For Hapeville

"Yes, Mr. Allen was speaking for one or two of our people, but we have 11,000 others whom he

did not speak for," said Mayor Frank E. Coggin of Hapeville. Mayor Coggin is also a state senator from Fulton County.

Mayor Hamilton said he thought Governor Carl Sanders, who followed Mayor Allen before the senate committee, "adequately refuted" the Atlanta official's testimony on the civil rights issue.

Mayor Harvey Armistead of Clarkston commented: "Mayor Allen may have been speaking for the 40,000 Negro bloc vote in his own town, but he certainly wasn't speaking for Clarkston or the rest of the metropolitan area."

Mayor Hamilton said the area mayors were especially displeased at Mayor Allen because he attended a luncheon of their group only one day before giving his testimony in Washington.

"He talked about everything else but civil rights during the luncheon. We had no idea he was planning to represent himself as our spokesman," said the Decatur executive.

You may be speaking for all the negroes in Atlanta, but certainly not for all the white people.