

October 24, 1964

Mr. Hank Aaron  
Milwaukee Braves  
Milwaukee Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Aaron:

Having been born and raised in the South, I can understand your fears and apprehensions relative to your moving to the south with the Braves Baseball Team.

But as a Senator from the State of Georgia, and the first of our group to serve in the Senate in 92 years and as one who has watched Atlanta and Georgia progress in the last decade, I can assure you that your fears today may not be well founded. Georgia has made more progress in the last five years in the area of human relations than any other southern state. Atlanta has moved in the same span of time from a segregated city to a desegregated city. The business community, the city administration as well as Negro and White leadership have joined forces to keep Atlanta moving forward.

It is far from my intentions to convey to you that we have reached the ultimate in human relations in Atlanta. Frankly, I do not know of any city in this country where the ultimate has been reached. It is not my intentions to infer that there is no room for improvement. To the contrary, we have a long way to go as is true in most cities throughout the country including Milwaukee before achieving a society completely free of prejudice and discrimination. However, we have come a long way in the city of Atlanta. Our public facilities have been desegregated, the golf courses, swimming pools, libraries, transportation facilities, hotels, motels, restaurants, the present ball park and the ball park under construction will be completely desegregated.

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The important thing about Atlanta is that there is a spirit and an atmosphere of change, there is a spirit of growth and a determination on the part of Negroes and Whites, who have pledged a continued perpetuation of this atmosphere.

In my official capacity, as a State Senator, I want to welcome you to our city. As a southerner and as a great admirer of yours, my wife and I want to extend to you and to your family the hospitality of our home and our friendship as you resolve in your own mind the question of returning to the south.

With kind personal regards, I remain

Yours truly,

Leroy R. Johnson  
Senator, 38th District

LRJ:pw