

## Atlanta and LA

There are mayors and there are mayors.

Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. of Atlanta has been lately in the news, his city having been the scene of racial rioting even though it is the most advanced of major Southern cities in the enlightened handling of its racial problems. Mayor Allen not only acknowledges the problems but concedes that his city has not progressed as fast as desirable in eliminating them.

In stark contrast to most Southern politicians, he testified in favor of the public accommodations section of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, saying Federal law in this area was necessary; he has favored the open occupancy section of the civil rights bill which passed the House of Representatives.

Throughout the rioting in his city, Mayor Allen was on the scene, in the thick of it, literally risking life and limb.

He didn't remember a speech he had to give in another part of the state, excuse himself from duty and take off.

He didn't limit his efforts to the obvious cries for support of the police in the face of violence. He worked closely and constantly with Negroes and whites trying to restore order.

One has the feeling that if Mayor Allen of Atlanta were appearing before a Senate committee there would be no need for questioning concerning his leadership abilities, but that if such questions were asked, and no matter how severely phrased, he would have meaningful answers, for his city and for himself. He wouldn't plead helplessness.

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