

A Cause For Anger In Atlanta

MAYOR Ivan Allen Jr. of Atlanta is one of the new breed of Southern political leaders who seeks equal justice for all under the law. He has helped earn his community a reputation for enlightened handling of racial matters.

The mayor is angry. Not because he was tumbled in the dust by a mob he was trying to calm. He is angry because, he says, the riot was egged on by a group which calls itself non-violent.

There is substance in what the mayor says. A sound truck manned by members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee was rushed to the area of tension where police and taunting Negroes faced each other. Over the loudspeaker SNCC denounced "racist police" and extolled "black power."

In the ensuing violence 16 persons were injured. Between 60 and 70 were arrested.

More moderate Negro leadership is critical of SNCC's tactics. One Atlanta minister said the situation was under control before the "nonviolent" ones arrived. "They whipped them up with hate," said the minister.

Others, including the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, condemned the violence.

In these times of tension and unrest, no community can afford to point a finger at another or close its eyes to its own shortcomings. The situation in Atlanta, how-

ever, shows how easily violence can be created by irresponsible agents and how seriously it can affect the patient, dedicated search for solutions by individuals of both races.

Mayor Allen has cause to be angry and so have those in Atlanta and elsewhere who know that violence can only destroy.