

*Quick Draft*

MAYOR IVAN ALLEN, JR.  
REMARKS OF GREETINGS  
EASTERN REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE  
NATIONAL URBAN COALITION  
ATLANTA-AMERICAN MOTOR HOTEL  
DECEMBER 13, 1967  
9:30 A. M.

THANK YOU, MR. SULLIVAN.

MR. PHILLIPPE, MR. FLYNN, MR. STERNE, DR. REDDICK,  
DISTINGUISHED OUT OF TOWN GUESTS AND FELLOW ATLANTANS.

IT PLEASES ME TO SEE SO MANY OF OUR NATIONAL AND LOCAL  
BUSINESS LEADERS GATHER HERE TODAY TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES  
FOR AMERICAN FREE-ENTERPRISE TO USE ITS VAST POTENTIAL AS A  
MAJOR FACTOR IN SOLVING ONE OF OUR COUNTRY'S BIGGEST PROBLEMS.  
THIS IS THE PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

IT IS THE PROBLEM OF PEOPLE WHO NEED JOBS AND OF JOBS  
WHO NEED PEOPLE.

OUR TASK IS TO FIND OUT HOW TO MEET BOTH NEEDS, TO DEVELOP  
A HEALTHY ECONOMY WHICH PROVIDES A VARIETY OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED WORK AND TO PROVIDE WORKERS WITH SKILLS  
NECESSARY TO FILL THE VACANCIES WHICH GO UNFILLED FOR LACK OF  
QUALIFIED LABOR.

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IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT GOVERNMENT AT THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS AND BUSINESS LEADERSHIP ARE COOPERATING TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THESE PROBLEMS.

IT IS FITTING, I THINK, MR. PHILLIPPE, THAT YOUR TASK FORCE ON PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT CHOSE ATLANTA AS ONE OF YOUR REGIONAL CONFERENCE SITES.

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE PARTNERSHIP OF BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT THAT HAS PROVIDED THE STIMULATION AND RESOURCES WHICH HAVE ADVANCED OUR COMMUNITY IN ALL AREAS.

THIS WAS TRUE OF URBAN RENEWAL, WHICH WAS THE CATALYST THAT LAUNCHED THE GREAT DOWNTOWN BUSINESS EXPANSION STILL GOING ON TODAY. EIGHTY PERCENT OF ATLANTA'S NEAR DOWNTOWN SLUMS HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED AND ACTIVE PROGRAMS ARE UNDERWAY IN SOME TEN AREAS TO WIPE OUT THE REMAINDER.

THE FORWARD ATLANTA PROGRAM PRODUCED \_\_\_\_\_ NEW JOBS IN \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS.

AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS COURAGEOUSLY SUPPORTED THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM, JOB TRAINING AND JOB

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DEVELOPMENT FOR THE DISADVANTAGED AND I AM SURE WE CAN EXPECT IT TO CONTINUE TO DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR ALL CITIZENS.

WHILE WE PROUDLY BOAST OF WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED, WE READILY RECOGNIZE MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

THIS CONFERENCE SHOULD HELP US TO MORE CLEARLY EVALUATE OUR SHORTCOMINGS IN THE AREA OF UNEMPLOYMENT, AND, I HOPE, TO DEVISE METHODS FOR OVERCOMING THEM.

WE WELCOME YOU TO ATLANTA AND TO THE CONFERENCE. I HOPE YOU CAN ALL REMAIN THROUGHOUT THE DAY.