

*Steering Committee Co-chairmen: Andrew Heiskell / A. Philip Randolph*

October 7, 1967

Honorable Ivan Allen  
Mayor of the City of Atlanta  
City Hall  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Ivan:

Here are some comments and suggestions on some of the ideas we discussed in Atlanta.

The establishment of a six-to-eight member committee to act as an organizing or steering committee is a very worthwhile approach. I suggest that leaders from business, labor, religion, and civil rights be invited to serve on the committee. You may wish to add representatives from other sectors of the community to the committee. This committee should be formed as soon as possible because, as you know, the Urban Coalition is holding a National Conference to discuss the formation of local coalitions in Chicago on October 17, 1967. It would be advantageous to have representatives from this committee attend.

One of the initial actions the committee could take is to convene a meeting of 50 to 60 local business and labor leaders to consider the formation of a local task force on private employment.

It is suggested that the format for the meeting be a luncheon followed by a two-hour working conference. To set the meeting in its proper perspective, the participants should hear from a nationally known business leader, preferably Gerald Phillippe of General Electric, co-chairman of our Task Force on Private Employment and Entrepreneurship. We would be happy to assist in obtaining a speaker for the occasion.

The discussion at the working session should focus on the development of a local private employment task force and the establishment of working committees to (1) assess the local unemployment and underemployment problems, (2) develop programs with specific goals, and (3) issue evaluation reports on the progress of the programs.

Staff personnel from the participating companies would be assigned to perform the specific duties. Technical assistance and specialists should be used as needed.

HON. IVAN ALLEN

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A second meeting will be convened within a month at which time the working committees will present recommendations and programs. Commitments from individual companies to support and implement the programs will be obtained at this time, including financial and personnel support.

I would be happy to come to Atlanta to meet with your organizing group at their convenience. If we can be of further help, let us know.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Feild", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

John Feild  
National Coordinator