

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
PITTSBURGH 13, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

July 28, 1963

Mr. Ivan Alan, Jr.  
Mayor  
Atlanta

Dear Mayor Alan:

It was with a great deal of interest and pride that I read of the testimony which you delivered in support of the President's civil rights package.

I was born and raised in the South -- Atlanta and south Texas -- and am only temporarily absented while I am doing my doctorate. I have become of late quite sensitive to the crying lack of moral leadership which seems so prevalent in certain of the southern states.

I think that there does exist a sizeable group of intelligent leaders who are willing to assess this problem and its consequences in long range terms. However, up to now, it almost seems as if this group, if they do in fact exist, have abdicated their responsibility.

Your actions in the past, and your verbal affirmation of this policy last week, have renewed my belief that "the intelligent southerner", forthright in expression, does exist.

Sincerely,

  
J. Thomas May  
Room 226  
Social Science Program