

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30332

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

September 7, 1966

Mayor Ivan Allen
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mayor Allen:

Sitting comfortably in a chair after breakfast, I read about the trouble yesterday--the two first page stories in the CONSTITUTION and Mr. Patterson's superb editorial built mostly around your words and deeds.

As a moderately active liberal, I am saddened by the incident; it should not have happened. Yet it was a small affair when compared with Watts and similar outbreaks in northern and western cities. Atlanta's image as a southern city which manages to handle its problems is not seriously damaged.

You had some help from the police and from sensible negro leaders. But it was your coolness, courage, and resourcefulness which saved the day. Yesterday you won a Congressional Medal or its equivalent, and you also achieved the personal stature in the minds of whites and colored which will enable you deal effectively with the issues which remain.

Cheers and cheers for the Mayor!

Respectfully yours,

Edward Foster

Edward Foster
Professor of English