

Allen Reassured On Model Program

By ALEX COFFIN

Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. and key aides were reassured late last week about what the Nixon administration intends to do about the Model Cities program.

A telegram from the office of George Romney, secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-



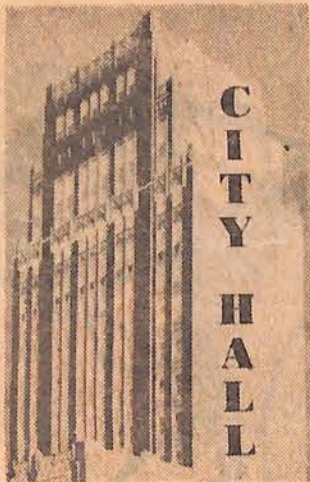
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ment, and a call to Allen from a top White House aide calmed fears that the city might have to start from near scratch in providing a better life for the 45,000 residents of the six neighborhoods south and east of Atlanta Stadium.

"The effect," said Dan Sweat, deputy chief administrator to Allen, "is that Atlanta's planning and organizing has not been in vain. We have not wasted any time or effort."

The telegram from Romney's office does indicate, however, that some slight changes will be coming. Perhaps the most important is that the mayor's office will keep a more watchful eye on the program and will need to exercise closer supervision, with the Model Cities Executive Board becoming somewhat more advisory in nature.

City officials also had clear



indication last week that the \$7.2 million in supplemental implementation funds, approved last January, finally are close at hand.

Probably the best news to city officials in Romney's telegram was clarification of the role of state government. Allen and his staff had been concerned that Nixon might seek to interpose the state between the federal government and the city in running the Model Cities program. Not so, said the telegram, although greater involvement by the state is sought.

Another important change, and this pleased city officials, is the erasing of the boundaries of the area to be covered. The city earlier itself had established the 3,000 acres and generally is expected to stick to that area—however, in certain cases, the boundary need not be a barrier.

The Romney telegram also called for the establishment of priorities, rather than trying to "attack every conceivable problem within these neighborhoods. This obviously would be unworkable" and result in cities "dissipating their resources in a vain effort to solve all" problems.

Allen already is engaged in close scrutiny of the proposals. Model Cities Director J. C. Johnson, sources say, is working hard, with some success, in making a good case for the projects, most of which are interrelated.

Minor adjustments will have to be made in the program, city officials are saying, but they will be minor ones — such as getting more private involvement.

But, generally it can be reported that city officials aren't glum at all about the Nixon administration's attitude toward Model Cities.

Young GOPs Pick Atlantan

Constitution State News Service

CALLAWAY GARDENS, Ga., Knott Rice of Atlanta, a 22-year-old Emory graduate student, was elected chairman of the Georgia Federation of Young Republican Clubs at their annual convention at Callaway Gardens Saturday.

He defeated H. Royce Hobbs of Macon, 374 to 323.

Rice was the incumbent young Republican national committeeman and a former president of the Emory YR club. Hobbs, 34, was a candidate for mayor of Macon in 1967 and the Georgia General Assembly in 1968.

The convention opened Saturday morning with the defeat of then-chairman Terry Moshier for temporary chairman by Horace Taylor of the Fulton County delegation, 395-316. Moshier had backed Hobbs while Taylor supported Rice.

Fulton County and College clubs throughout the state provided Rice with his heavy support. Hobbs got most of his votes from metropolitan areas outside Atlanta. The same patterns held for the lower offices.

Dick Jones, 32, of the Fulton County club was chosen national committeeman over Fred Neal of Augusta. Betty Baker of the Fulton County club won the post of national committeewoman over Sandra Ford of the metropolitan Atlanta club.

Jenny Bailey, Georgia College in Milledgeville, defeated Nancy Grider of Atlanta for vice chairwoman.

Incumbant secretary Caroline Meadows of the Cobb County club was re-elected by acclamation.

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