

Mayor Allen Must Not Have Read The Bill

The kindest thing that could be said for Mayor Ivan Allen regarding his now famous support of the President's civil rights bill before a congressional committee is that he had not read the bill, as his speech clearly indicated.

It was publicly announced that the mayor had been invited to testify on the bill itself, but instead he made a political-type address and in the course of his oratory actually endorsed federal legislation which would force privately owned businesses to operate as the Attorney-General of the United States sees fit. We are sure that businessman Ivan Allen would not want the thriving company of the same name operated at the

whim of any U. S. Attorney-General, but that, in effect, is what he supported.

Meanwhile, here at home Negro demonstrators in seeking to take over a privately owned business also assumed the right to take over the public streets and sidewalks at a busy intersection in downtown Atlanta. Traffic was blocked and general confusion was the order as the demonstrators stretched out in the streets halting passing motorists. There was a near riot as motorists became impatient at being unable to continue along the downtown streets. Could this be part payment by the demonstrators for Mr. Allen's support of the civil rights bill? Only time will tell.

Looking Ahead

Atlanta rung up another "first" last week when the Mayor appeared before the Congressional Committee which is holding hearings on the President's Civil Rights bill.

The solid rank of opposition of Southern sentiment against the bill was 'bent' not broken, when Mayor Allen went on record as favoring the bill.

His surprising action shocked the community into a rash of speculation as to just what his political career can possibly gain from his stand.

There are those who claim he is looking forward to a stab at the Congressional Seat when and if Fulton County becomes a separate district and Representatives are again elected to go to Washington.

There are others who staunchly declare that his well-known ambition to become Georgia's Governor was the motivating reason for his stand.

The first reason seems most logical. With the ever-growing Negro registration in Fulton County it is more reasonable to think that his ambition points towards the Congressional seat rather than the Governor's chair.

True there is a tremendous Negro registration in Fulton County, but if what we hear is indicative of local reaction, we might just have another 'bloc' white vote should this come about. Just what aroused white voters can do when they decide they have had enough was clearly demonstrated in Macon a few weeks ago when B. F. Merrit was swept into office over another prominent business man who had the endorsement of the Macon branch of the NAACP and the Macon daily paper.

Once before this combination resulted in the election of lame duck Mayor Ed Wilson, an unsuccessful candidate for Lt. Governor last year and when Mr. Wilson emerged a winner the news was broadcast to the four winds by not only local Macon sources but also by Atlanta newspapers.

The curious quiet on the local scene about the recent Macon election seems to prove that it was not only unexpected in the do-gooder ranks but most disappointing.

Therefore, while Mr. Allen's reason for taking his surprising stand on the Civil Rights bill might point to his ambition to run for Congress from an Atlanta district and MIGHT BE SMART, HE TOOK a BIG CALCULATED RISK IN VIEW OF THE APPARENT CHANGING WHITE FEELING ON THE SUBJECT.

We believe Mr. Allen is smart enough to realize just what he has stepped into in his political career.

Frankly, if his ambition points to a shot at the Governor's chair, that would point stronger to the risk being much greater. Really, we, just as most

other towns in the Fifth District and Atlanta cannot figure just what was the motivating reason, unless it was simply a shot in the dark or his biggest mistake so far.

Meanwhile, rumors going around have it that Martin Luther King is in trouble with his co-horts in the racial demonstration field. It is being said that the older, more stable Negro organizations are dissatisfied with King's continued agitation and the violence it is producing, and are using his rumored Communistic connections to ease him out.

Meanwhile, although Atlanta heard first of King's connection with O'Dell several weeks ago through the columns of the Herald, Alabama papers as well as the New Orleans Times-Picayune and the St. Louis Globe-Democrat have been spreading this news for months, in fact since last December, so it took very little digging on the part of local reporters to come up with this 'stale' story.

Yes, it looks as if the worm is turning and that we'll probably have much more quiet on the racial front as white people begin to let it soak in how they have been taken to the cleaners by the minority groups and the do-gooders, in recent months.