

# PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES

Serving All the Services

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## Why Atlanta Has Cause for Worry

ATLANTA

ATLANTA, like the great northern cities, is worried about its summertime. Memory of its two racial "disturbances" last September still runs strong.

Those brief but explosive events sullied Atlanta's image as the perfect model of a racially harmonious southern city.

Both white and moderate Negro leaders are concerned that worse outbursts could occur in 1967.

Rumors run through Atlanta that militant, even radical, elements are preparing to take advantage of any trouble that might develop. There are reports of small arms being sold on the streets to Negro teen-agers.



**BIOSSAT**

to have acquired some of the same problems northern cities have. And we're stupid enough to have created some of the same problems, too."

Currently the city is torn by argument over location of certain new Negro housing.

Under Mayor Ivan Allen, some low-rent public housing units and some privately financed Negro dwellings are planned for just one large area where Negro housing is already heavily concentrated.

NAACP leaders are bitterly contesting the plan on the ground it will foster further growth of a sector that is well on the way to becoming the city's single huge Negro ghetto. They want the new construction spread beyond this southwest Atlanta area.

FOR LONG years, a good part of the city's Negro population was, in fact, scattered widely in "poverty pockets" of varying size. The commercial boom, the freeway network and urban renewal have combined to wipe out many of these pockets altogether. Others are on the way to disappearing. Displaced Negroes move to the swelling southwestern "wedge" where it is now proposed to add the controversial housing.

The issue is not yet resolved. But leaders see it as a troublesome factor in the equation that keeps Atlanta in shaky peace.

A modestly hopeful step, growing out of last September's violence, was the city's creation of a Community Relations Commission—a 20-member group led by a respected attorney, Irving Kahler. Negroes and whites alike commend the inquisitive hearings commission panels have held in various slum sectors. Slum residents have had ample chance to air grievances.

But, since the commission has only advisory authority, some Negro leaders are skeptical of the prospect of much real benefit.

The credit to Atlanta for smoothly desegregating public accommodations and some schools has worn thin. Most Negro leaders today see the city as just another Chicago or Cleveland—not doing enough about schools, jobs and housing.

(Newspaper Enterprise Assn.)

*The most difficult of all virtues is the forgiving spirit. Revenge seems to be natural with man; it is human to want to get even with an enemy.*

—William Jennings Bryan