

Racial Conflict Stirred Up by Atlanta's 'Wall'

ATLANTA, Jan. 3 (AP) — The separation of white and Negro residential sections by a buffer zone of city-built wood and steel barriers has created a head-on conflict between Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. and objecting Negro leaders.

In Municipal Court today, Negro and white opponents of the city's "Berlin Wall" pressed a suit to have the barriers removed as a public nuisance.

Meanwhile, Allen and the Negro All-Citizens Committee for Better City Planning came face to face in a meeting which the Mayor called friendly but which a Committee spokesman indicated was not entirely so.

The mayor noted that the committeemen were firm in refusing to negotiate on the general racial situation until the barricades come down. A Committee leader, Dr. C. A. Smith, said Allen was just as determined that the road-blocks should not be removed before negotiations.

"We personally abhor the fact that the situation has now

come to a head-on struggle," said Smith, "but we stand as firm as the Mayor in our convictions that this insult to Atlanta and to one-third of Atlanta's citizens can and must be removed."

Allen engaged in a polite but somewhat strained verbal exchange with his predecessor as mayor, William B. Hartsfield, a racial moderate.

Hartsfield had called the road barriers "an awful mistake" and volunteered assistance in eradicating "this source of friction and bad publicity."

Allen in reply professed warm regard for Hartsfield and his opinions and said, "If the need to call on him should arise, I wouldn't be the least reluctant to call on him, and I am sure he would be willing to give help."

Hartsfield later told newsmen that his successor "has a tough nut to crack but it cannot be done by artificial barriers."

"The Negro citizen has a right to live anywhere," he declared.



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This is one of the road barriers creating a racial buffer zone in Atlanta that was

the object of a day-long court hearing in the Georgia capital yesterday.