

P.O.Box 8022  
Atlanta, Ga. 30306  
Sept. 30, 1966

Mayor Ivan Allen  
City Hall  
Atlanta, Ga.

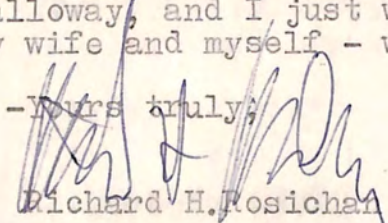
Dear Mayor Allen:

In this morning's paper I read of your horrified reaction to Lester Maddox's victory in the runoff, and I felt compelled to write you and tell you how much I share your feelings. I have never before felt such horrified disbelief coupled with such profound sadness. The contest between Maddox and Calloway is a contest between an insane racist and a sane racist, that's all. Maybe I'll go fishing on election day, too.

I've only lived in Atlanta for two years, but I think you've been doing a wonderful job as mayor, and I've been particularly delighted with your thoughtful and enlightened attitude towards racial matters. When you and other guests sang "We Shall Overcome" at the testimonial dinner for Martin Luther King, jr. after he won the Nobel Prize, I remember thinking how few northern mayors, let alone southern ones, would have the guts to do something like that. I was similarly impressed with the thoughtful and yet firm manner in which you handled the recent racial disturbances in Atlanta.

I'm certain that your intelligent and understanding outlook on racial matters will probably get you into many scraps with our next governor, be it Maddox or Calloway, and I just want you to know that here are two more Georgians - my wife and myself - who will be behind you one hundred per cent.

-Yours truly;

  
Richard H. Rosichan