



*Albert Paul Brunson* **A**  
**SECOND**  
**LOOK**

1960  
H

**THE NEGRO CITIZEN**  
**IN ATLANTA**





## Foreword

MOST ATLANTANS take pride in their city—whether because of its dogwoods, magnolias and graceful homes, or out of appreciation for the music of its cash registers and the giant shovels and bulldozers making way for the latest skyscraper, expressway or subdivision. Nothing in the pages that follow is intended to deny the obvious fact that Atlanta is a dynamic and generally forward-looking city—potentially a great city.

But for a city, as for an individual, nothing can be more harmful in the long run than complacency and self-delusion. As Atlantans committed to doing whatever they can to help their city realize her fullest potential, the members of the Atlanta Committee for Cooperative Action have chosen this means of asking their fellow citizens to take a second look at Atlanta: specifically, to take a long, hard, honest look at some problems which will not simply go away if we wink at them or ignore them long enough.

Most of these problems keenly and directly affect the Negro citizens of Atlanta, but by the same token they threaten the civic health of the entire Atlanta community. Whether we look at them in cold dollar and cents terms, in terms of social progress, or in terms of basic Christian justice, they are inescapable reminders that Atlanta will become a truly great American metropolis only as it increasingly makes the fullest and wisest use of all its human resources.

We are not interested merely in fault-finding, nor in propagandizing others to think as we do. But we hope that our fellow Atlantans will read and ponder the contents of the pages that follow. It does not matter so much that all of us will not see a given situation in precisely the same way. It may matter a great deal that enough of us should at least take the trouble to look.

THE ATLANTA COMMITTEE FOR COOPERATIVE ACTION

January, 1960



## **EDUCATION:**

### **City of Atlanta**

IF EDUCATION is one of the major sources of the strengths that make men free, then what American city has a higher potential for freedom than metropolitan Atlanta—with a dozen colleges and institutions of higher learning, over 180 elementary schools, over 30 high schools, two vocational schools, two special schools, four night schools? Education—the kind, the amount, its availability—affects every Negro citizen in the Atlanta area. For it has bearing not only on the problems of literacy, but on employment, justice and law enforcement, housing and health as well.

- \* Despite repeated queries, there are no ROTC units in Negro high schools.
- \* Students in Negro schools have been known to attend classes for weeks without being able to secure the textbooks required for their courses; meanwhile, the practice continues of supplying Negro students with used or out-dated texts discarded by Atlanta's white students.
- \* Double sessions continue in about half of the Negro public schools, and many Negro children travel ten miles a day to reach a school that will admit them.
- \* The following are among the fields of advanced training available locally only to white students: Medicine, Dentistry, Law, Nursing, Architecture, Aeronautical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Industrial Management, Mechanical Engineering, and Textile Engineering.
- \* Without the added expense and inconvenience of leaving the city, white Atlantans may study for many advanced degrees which are not offered locally to Negroes. Among these are the Ph.D. and B.B.A.
- \* Though free cultural exchange is so basic to our civilization that Russia and the United States have met on this common ground, there is disturbingly little mutually helpful exchange between the educational communities of white and Negro Atlanta.
- \* It is a fact that, as the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce states: "There are more institutions of higher learning for Negroes in Atlanta than in any other city in the world."

These, too, are facts:

- ... Atlanta is the southeastern capital of commerce, industry, the arts and professions;
- ... Over 3,300 of the nation's leading business concerns have thriving branches in Atlanta;
- ... Some 55 departments and agencies of the U. S. Government are located here.

Yet it remains a fact that most of the graduates of our Negro institutions of higher learning must leave Atlanta if they hope to find positions on a par with their qualifications.

- \* While teaching as a job market for Negroes in this region has reached the saturation point, hundreds of able young Negroes continue to enroll in teacher-training programs because of the rigid racial barriers blocking careers in other fields.
- \* Meanwhile, it is still nearly impossible for Negro youth to secure first-class modern vocational training in the city of Atlanta. The vocational program of Carver Vocational School is suffering because a rising high school population has made necessary the use of Carver's facilities for academic curricula; the city's white vocational school (Smith-Hughes) remains what it was intended to be—a vocational school.
- \* And finally, enlightened Atlantans look in vain for the kind of responsible leadership which did so much to solve educational problems with a minimum of friction and lost motion in Louisville, Nashville, St. Louis, and Washington.

## **EDUCATION:**

### **State of Georgia**

THE NEGRO citizen of Atlanta may sometimes allow himself to forget momentarily that he is also a citizen of the State of Georgia. Such forgetfulness is a luxury he can ill afford, especially as it relates to the all-important issue of education. The three exhibits which follow provide their own graphic commentary.



## Exhibit A: EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA

Higher Education: University of Georgia System.

The University of Georgia System Is Controlled by a Twenty (20) Member Board of Regents.

Number Whites on Board of Regents (20). Number Negroes on Board of Regents (0).

### EDUCATIONAL AND GENERAL EXPENDITURES

Fiscal Year 1958

<i>Institutions for White Youths Only</i>	<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>Institutions for Negro Students</i>	<i>Total Expenditures</i>
University of Georgia . . . . .	\$14,390,448.77	Albany State College . . . . .	\$450,564.81
Georgia Institute of Technology . . . . .	7,956,175.51	Fort Valley State College . . . . .	822,763.89
Georgia State College of Business Administration . . . . .	1,889,710.90	Savannah State College . . . . .	727,798.36
Medical College of Georgia (Eugene Talmadge Memorial Hospital) . . . . .	5,261,327.32	No Medical School Counterpart . . . . .	—0—
Plus Other Smaller Colleges . . . . .	2,134,394.68	(Regents Paid \$22,500 to Meharry Medical College for Georgia Negro Students)	
Total White Only Senior Units . . . . .	\$31,632,057.18	Total Negro Senior Units . . . . .	\$2,001,127.06

#### *Junior Colleges for White Youths*

Georgia Southwestern College . . . . .	\$183,996.34
Middle Georgia College . . . . .	189,911.54
South Georgia College . . . . .	198,035.49
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College . . . . .	247,995.96

Total White Junior College Units \$819,939.33

#### *Junior Colleges for Negro Youths*

NONE

Total Negro Junior College Units —0—

Total of \$34,453,123.57 Spent for All Senior and Junior Units, White and Negro.

94% of the Amount Was Spent for White Youths.

6% Was Spent for Negro Youths.

## Exhibit B: AREA TRADE SCHOOLS OF THE STATE

### EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1958

#### *Area Trade Schools for White*

North Georgia Trade . . . . .	\$314,198.03
South Georgia Trade . . . . .	228,307.86

Total Amount Spent for White . . . . . \$542,505.89

#### *Area Trade Schools for Negroes*

NONE

—0—\*

\*Under the Trade Division of the Program at Savannah State College, \$45,718.31 is listed as paid for Personal Services.



## Exhibit C: RESEARCH

As stated in one university catalogue, "A university serves the three-fold purpose of the expansion, the preservation, and the dissemination of knowledge, and the graduate school is the division of the university organization that is most intimately concerned with the first of these three functions. Creative scholarship, largely in the form of research in the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences and the several fields of their application, constitutes the central endeavor around which graduate work must be developed."

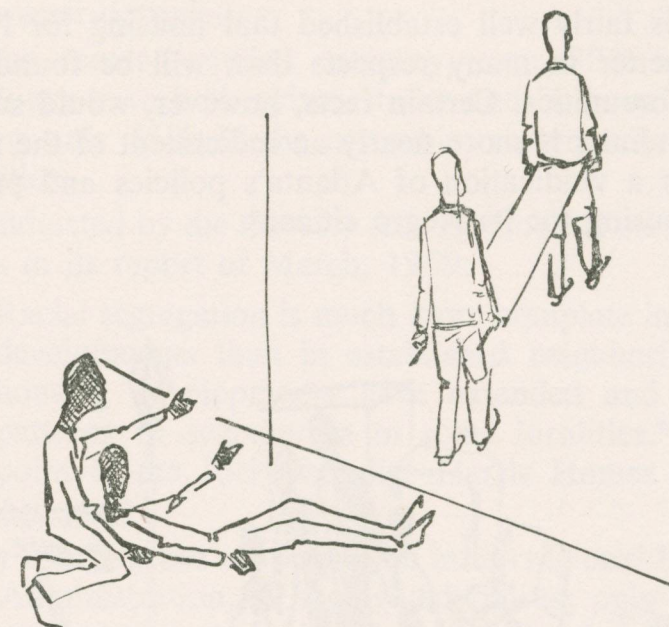
### 1958 EXPENDITURES FOR RESEARCH IN THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA SYSTEM

Research Expenditures at Institutions for Whites .	\$6,147,782.66
Research Expenditures at Institutions for Negroes	13,097.24

## Health

THE HEALTH of one-third of a city's population is important not only to the people who make up that one-third, but to the remaining two-thirds as well. There may be disagreement as to the causes of the often poor health conditions of Atlanta's Negro citizens. No one, we believe, would deny that the situation is a concern of the whole city.

\* Death rate for white Atlantans, 8.3 per 1,000; death rate for Negro Atlantans, 11.7 per 1,000.



- \* Atlanta's 14 general hospitals and 9 related institutions provide some 4,000 available beds (exclusive of VA and Army facilities). Except for some 430 beds at Grady Hospital, Negroes are limited to the 250 beds in three private Negro hospitals. Some of the hospitals barring Negroes were built with federal funds.
- \* There are 2,500 graduate nurses in Atlanta; only 157 are Negro. There is no post-graduate training program available for Negro nurses in Atlanta.
- \* The Fulton County Medical Society has some 900 members; racial restrictions bar all of Atlanta's 38 Negro physicians from membership—a situation not duplicated in some Southern cities which make fewer claims to "progressiveness."
- \* A surgical training program for Negro physicians has been instituted at the Hughes Spaulding Pavilion, but at Grady Memorial Hospital Negro doctors are still denied visiting staff privileges.
- \* Records list 328 white medical technologists in Atlanta, with 75 of them in training; there are currently three Negro medical technologists in Atlanta. No training program for technologists in Atlanta hospitals is open to Negroes.



## Housing

By now it is fairly well established that housing for Negroes in Atlanta is better in many respects than will be found in many northern communities. Certain facts, however, would suggest that this state of affairs is more nearly an indictment of the rest of the country than a vindication of Atlanta's policies and practices in regard to housing for its Negro citizens.



- \* The bulk of the Negro population in Atlanta is still:
  - ... locked into the more undesirable and overcrowded areas of the city;
  - ... paying a proportionally higher percentage of income for rental and purchase of generally lower quality property;
  - ... blocked and hamstrung in its effort to secure better housing by political maneuvers and direct or indirect racial restrictions.
- \* The Metropolitan Planning Commission's report of April 2, 1959, shows that the nonwhite population, which constitutes 35.7 per cent of Atlanta's total population, is occupying only 16.4 per cent of the "total developed residential land."
- \* The 221 program to provide low-cost housing has been crippled by new zoning restrictions approved by the Board of Aldermen which rezoned large tracts of land which might have been used for minority group occupancy.

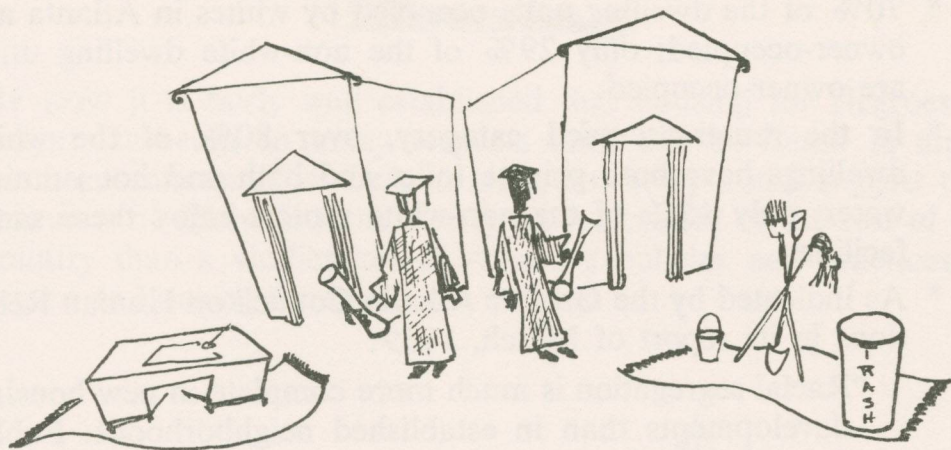
- \* 70% of the dwelling units occupied by whites in Atlanta are owner-occupied; only 29% of the non-white dwelling units are owner-occupied.
- \* In the renter-occupied category, over 80% of the white dwellings have both private toilet and bath and hot running water; only 45% of the non-white renters enjoy these same facilities.
- \* As indicated by the Greater Atlanta Council on Human Relations in its report of March, 1959:
  - "Racial segregation is much more complete in new housing developments than in established neighborhoods. Public housing developments have extended and strengthened patterns of segregation in some localities." (A case in point is the Joel Chandler Harris Homes in southwest Atlanta.)
- \* Only two Negroes are employed in the regional Federal Housing Administration, in segregated offices; only two Negroes are employed in the regional Public Housing Administration—in segregated offices. To date, no Negroes are employed in the regional Urban Renewal Administration.

## Employment

IN A MODERN CITY such as Atlanta, any group which is economically handicapped is straitjacketed as it attempts to achieve its full potential in education, in health, and in creative citizenship. Every third man in Atlanta's million is a Negro—though it would be difficult for a visitor to believe this if he surveyed the offices, the labs, the mechanized production lines, and the counters from behind which the goods which help make Atlanta's wealth are sold. Often a porter—seldom if ever a production assistant; often a handler of bundles or crates—seldom if ever a driver; a taxpayer supporting his city, his county, his state, his country—but seldom on their payrolls above the janitorial rank—the Atlanta Negro as a job-holder is indeed a "marginal" man.

- \* Policies and practices of governmental agencies, private employers, and labor unions in Atlanta are reflected in such white-to-Negro employment ratios as these: social welfare and recreational workers, 9 to 1; bookkeepers, 200 to 1; elec-





tricians, more than 20 to 1; overall professional, technical and kindred workers, 13 to 1.

- \* In addition to locally owned and operated concerns, over 3,300 of the country's leading business organizations have branches in Atlanta for manufacturing, warehousing, and distributing. Many of these provide on-the-job training. Again, the prevailing pattern is to adopt discriminatory employment patterns and to exclude Negroes partially or wholly from the training programs.
- \* The following are but a few of the 55 Atlanta-based federal offices and agencies employing over 18,000 people, whose clerical and white-collar staffs either contain no Negroes or provide token employment *related to "advisory" or "consultant" positions*: Department of Health, Education and Welfare; Housing and Home Finance Agency; Department of Labor; Veterans Administration; National Labor Relations Board; Small Business Administration; Department of Agriculture; Civil Service Commission.
- \* As thousands of Negro householders pay their light, gas, electricity, and water bills they find little comfort in the fact that there are no Negro meter readers, technicians, or white collar workers employed by Atlanta's public utilities agencies.
- \* Although Negroes provide a sizable proportion of the dollar income which sparks the growth and expansion of Atlanta's department stores, food chains, factories, etc., the typical employment pattern is one of little or no adequate job opportunities for the graduates of Atlanta's Negro high schools and colleges.

## Justice and Law Enforcement

THE CHAIRMAN of Atlanta's Citizens' Crime Committee indicated recently the interrelationship between housing, economics, and Atlanta's crime and delinquency rate. The Committee also noted the influence on crime rates of family life, supervised recreation, guidance, and the attitude-forming roles of the church and the community. These findings of the Citizens' Crime Committee should be remembered in considering the following facts:

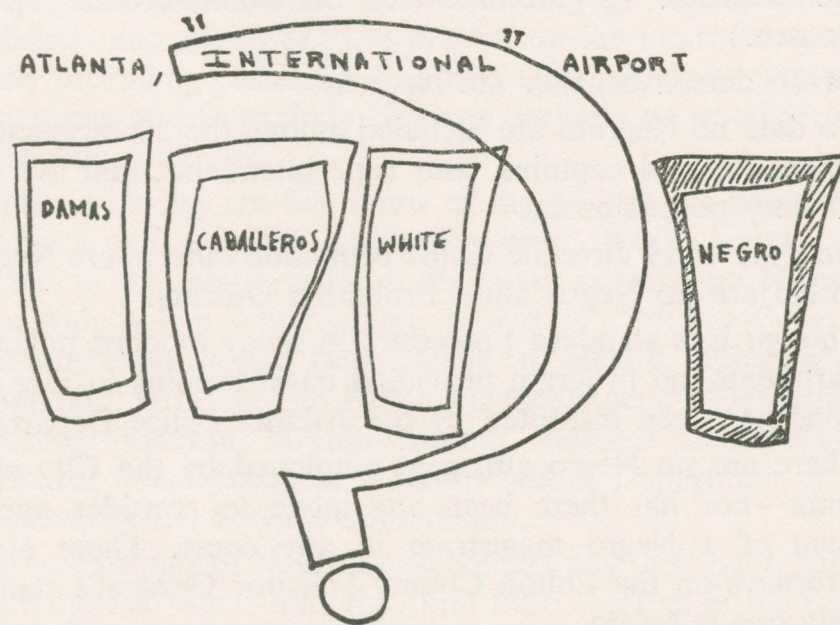
- \* Atlanta's Police Department has done much to merit its present reputation as ranking well above most Southern police forces in its treatment of Negro citizens. However, during the past year several Negro organizations and individuals publicly expressed their view that the Perry Homes incident represented a serious blight on the record of the Police Department and the other agencies of justice involved.
- \* Of 803 members of the Atlanta Police Department, only 31 are Negroes. (Figure excludes 36 school-crossing policewomen.)
- \* Of 76 detectives, four are Negroes.
- \* To date no Negroes are included among the 29 sergeants, 27 lieutenants, 14 captains, four superintendents, and five regular-duty policewomen.
- \* Only six of 19 Juvenile Court Probation officers are Negroes. There are no Negro adult Probation Officers.
- \* Though it is standard procedure in many modern police departments, no program providing basic training in race relations has been instituted by the Atlanta Police Department.
- \* There are no Negro attorneys employed by the City of Atlanta—nor has there been any move to consider appointment of a Negro magistrate in any court. There are 26 attorneys on the Fulton County Solicitor General's staff and only one is Negro.
- \* Though official statistics have not been compiled, qualified observers have commented on the survival of the old "double standard" of justice for Negroes and whites in the local (non-Federal) courts. Judge Luther Alverson and others have specifically called attention to the tendency of juries to deal lightly with crimes of violence in which all the parties involved are Negroes. Negro leaders, meanwhile, continue to note instances of uneven justice in cases in which the accused is white and the injured party Negro.



## Transportation

AS WITH MANY modern cities, Atlanta's transportation problems are basically traffic problems which—particularly at the rush hour—affect everybody in about the same way. To Atlanta's credit is the fact that desegregation of public transportation has proceeded without undue incident. Perhaps it is not too much to hope that progress may now be made in related areas.

- \* Studies by a committee of the Georgia State Senate and others have shown that, in dollars and cents, the highest income-producing lines for the Atlanta Transit Company are Numbers 3 (Irwin-West Hunter), 5 (Decatur Street-Magnolia), 24 (McDaniel Street), and 13 (West Fair). These lines are used mostly by Negroes and help to support the less-lucrative lines. To date the Atlanta Transit Company has shown no disposition to hire Negro operators even on those lines which serve predominantly Negro neighborhoods.



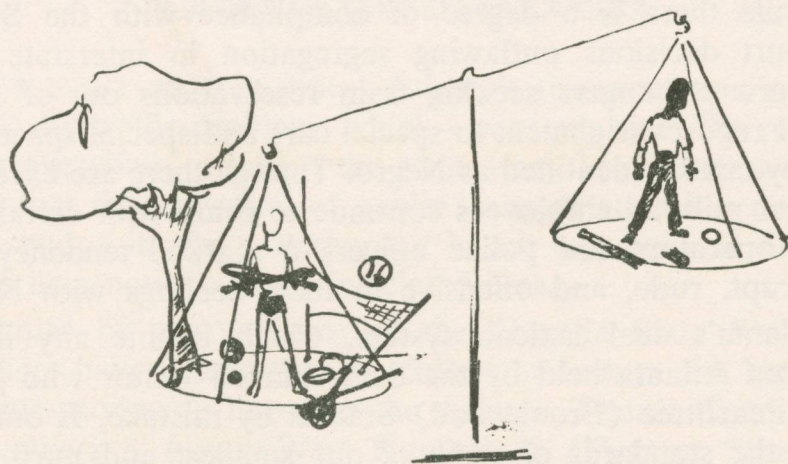
- \* Over 100,000 air passengers fly in and out of Atlanta each month, and, according to plan, this number will continue to rise sharply as Atlanta moves toward becoming a truly international airport. It is ironic to compare this projected future with present anachronistic policies, by which skin color determines restaurant service, taxi-rides into town, and the use of rest-room facilities.

- \* While there is a degree of compliance with the Supreme Court decisions outlawing segregation in interstate travel, Negro passengers seeking train reservations out of Atlanta still report assignment to special cars and special spaces when they can be identified as Negro. Though there are exceptions, local railroad employees continue to share with certain transit operators and police officers a marked tendency to be abrupt, rude, and offensive in their dealings with Negroes.
- \* Atlanta's dual taxicab system, which blights any illusions about Atlanta held by the dark-skinned visitor who gets off at Peachtree (Brookwood) Station by mistake, is outmoded by the standards of some of our smallest and most "backward" Southern communities—where Negro and white drivers compete freely in providing service to passengers without regard to race.

## Recreation

A GENTLEMAN who has labored long and hard for improvement in the recreational facilities available to Atlanta's Negroes recently summarized the situation in these words: "Better than it was; worse than it ought to be." Parents, teachers, and citizens concerned with crime and juvenile delinquency rates in our community understandably feel that the situation is a whole lot worse than it ought to be. The public golf courses are open. Negroes who wish to read for pleasure may now enter Atlanta's Main Library without being ushered out onto the street again. But Negro Atlantans can't help smiling wryly when the Chamber of Commerce says: "Atlantans and their visitors have amusement facilities in abundance."





What does the City of Atlanta actually provide?

- \* 42 major parks for white Atlantans; three for Negroes.
- \* 92 small parkways for whites; none for Negroes.
- \* 20 football fields for whites; none for Negroes.
- \* 16 recreation centers for whites; three for Negroes.
- \* 12 swimming pools for whites; three for Negroes.
- \* 22 baseball diamonds for whites; three for Negroes.
- \* 119 tennis courts for whites; no more than eight for Negroes.
- \* Not only are some of the facilities listed above for Negroes substandard, but the tensions and frustrations brought on by overcrowding tend to convert some of these recreation centers into potential trouble spots.
- \* Though some of the programs and activities for whites sponsored or co-sponsored by the City are duplicated for Negroes, there are others for which no parallel program or activity for Negroes exists.
- \* Except for the necessarily-limited fare provided by the modest budgets of the local Negro educational institutions, Negro Atlantans who are interested in first-run movies, opera, concerts, live theatre, and the dance are either excluded altogether or restricted to participation on a segregated basis.
- \* Except for the YMCA and YWCA, only a few agencies in the Negro community have been able to provide facilities and personnel for supervised recreation and guidance on a continuing basis; the Citizens' Crime Committee has said that such guidance is an important deterrent to juvenile delinquency and crime.

## Policy - Making

LONG BEFORE the American colonists made a burning issue of it, men had come to realize that those who are not represented when policies are being made run the risk of having their needs and problems minimized or ignored. As a modern metropolis, Atlanta depends on certain elected officials, boards, committees, authorities, and agencies to make the basic decisions for its citizenry. Whenever one of these top-level groups sits down around a table in Atlanta to discuss or make plans, the odds are overwhelming that some 300,000 Negro Atlantans simply are not represented at all.

- \* There are no Negroes on the 16-member Atlanta Board of Aldermen.
- \* There are no Negroes on such boards and committees as the Library Board, the Recreation Board, and the Public Welfare Board (whose clientele is 70% Negro).
- \* Two Negroes are members of the 16-member City Executive Committee which oversees city elections; two Negroes are on the 96-member Fulton County Democratic Executive Committee. These members have nothing to do with voter registration, are elected from a predominantly Negro ward, and, as Negroes, are barred from official membership in the Democratic party of Georgia.
- \* There is one Negro serving on Atlanta's nine-member Board of Education, but the top official role in public health filled by a Negro is that of the physician employed (part-time) as one of the "Principal Staff Members" of the Fulton County Health Department.
- \* Positions held by Negroes in the Republican Party of Georgia include the following: Vice-chairman of the State Central Committee; Secretary of the State Central Committee; Assistant Secretary of the State Central Committee; 33 memberships on the 132-member State Central Committee; seven County chairmen. Corresponding representation by Negroes in the official councils of the Democratic Party of Georgia: none.





\* The "freeze-out" of Negroes at the level of influence and decision in municipal, state, and federal agencies is compounded by the strictly segregated pattern in such private or voluntary groups as the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the Atlanta Real Estate Board, the Fulton County Medical Society, and the executive bodies of the Georgia Educational Association and most of the larger trade unions.



The publication of this booklet was made possible, in part, through the kindness of the Atlanta Life Insurance Company. The company has in excess of one thousand life insurance sales representatives serving families and communities in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, Texas, Kentucky, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois.

The Atlanta Life Insurance Company believes it to be the American way to air all sides of vital public issues confronting our time. However, the responsibility for the information, views and opinions expressed in this booklet rests solely with the ATLANTA COMMITTEE FOR COOPERATIVE ACTION.

## A Final Word

The Atlanta Committee for Cooperative Action is an organization of young business and professional men who share a concern for the future of the city in which they and their children live, a belief that all Atlantans have a right to a full citizen's role in that future, and a desire to work earnestly and patiently with individuals and groups willing to plan and act unselfishly toward just, reasonable, and clearly defined objectives in bringing that future to pass.

When you or your group has read this booklet we should appreciate having your candid reaction.

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