STATEMENT of BENJAMIN E. MAYS

August 15, 1969

I have lived in Atlanta for 38 years--five years in the 1920's, four years in the 1930's, and from 1940 to the present. For twenty-seven years, 1940 through 1967, I served as President of Morehouse College. I have spent my professional career in education.

I have seen Atlanta develop into the leading city in the South and one of the most progressive and prosperous cities in the United States. Atlanta has a good national image. This fact alone puts Atlanta on the spot. When a city is succeeding, it cannot afford to go backward. Even to stand still in any area means retrogression. I want to do what I can to help push Atlanta forward. And I believe I can help my city best by seeking membership on the Board of Education. I am happy to announce my candidacy for election to the Board from the Seventh Ward.

No one can say with absolute certainty what he will do if elected to office; but I am sure that every member of the Board of Education wants to see Atlanta develop the best public school system in the nation. I would like

to be a part of that team. And this means quality education in every school in

Atlanta. I not only believe in quality education but I believe in equality of

schools, irrespective of geography. The quantity and quality of equipment should

be equal. The quality of teaching in every school should be equal. I shall be

interested in quality education and equality of schools.

I do not know how many hungry children there are in the public schools

of Atlanta. I shall be concerned about hunger in the schools. If there are

children who are kept home from school because of a lack of shoes and clothes,

my concern will be to assist the Board in solving this problem.

It has been fifteen long years since segregated education was declared

unconstitutional. I shall do what I can to help the Board speed up the de-

segregation of both teachers and pupils in the public schools of Atlanta. A

great city like Atlanta must have the very best system of education.

These are some of the reasons I declare my candidacy for a place on

the Board of Education.