

THE ATLANTA INQUIRER

Established July, 1960. Published weekly. Editorial, Advertising and Circulation offices at 953 Hunter Street, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia. Subscription rates, \$3.50 for one year, \$10.00 for two years. The Atlanta Inquirer is an independent, non-partisan newspaper, dedicated to truth and the advancement of the total community. The opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and news sources are their own. The Inquirer cannot accept responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, photos or other materials.

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National Advertising Representative: Consolidated Publishers, Inc., 55 West 42nd Street, Suite 424A, New York 36, N. Y.; Telephone FEnnysylvania 6-0022 and 166 W Washington St., Suite 652. Telephone ANdover 3-6343. Chicago 2, Ill.

When The Lights Go On Again

An Atlantan who toured many glamorously lighted neighborhoods in our community this past week said he found himself wishing he owned a considerable slice of Georgia Power.

He also said that, having looked back on the past year, he wondered how many changes will have taken place before the Christmas lights wink on again next year. We add to his questions, some of our own,

By the time the lights go on again:

WILL Negroes still be scrambling for something better than an inadequate fraction of Atlanta's land, while Urban Renewal takes on the look of Urban Displacement?

WILL Atlanta's school desegregation be genuinely that, rather than the deliberately tokenized brand that places maximum pressure on a handful of human guinea pigs?

WILL City Hall offer Negro voters and taxpayers across-the-board employment opportunities based on merit rather than race?

WILL Negro leadership tackle problems cooperatively, self-critically and selflessly for the common good?

WILL the Fulton County Medical Society, along with Grady Hospital and Emory University Medical School be more scientific than Southern--admitting Negro physicians and medical students to full membership in one case, and full participation in the other, without regard to race?

Will theatres, hotels, parks and restaurants join downtown stores, buses and the Airport in quietly burying the segregation which has no place in a modern American city?

WILL more Negroes than ever be training for more careers than ever--and finding doors open in the factories, banks, office buildings and graduate schools both in Atlanta and throughout the state?

WILL those citizens who properly show concern for lighting and decorating their homes show as much concern and--more--for the inescapable problems of jobs, voting, health, housing and human rights?

All of us have an entire year ahead to provide a high percentage of positive answers before the lights go on again. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

'Fine Singing' From Lockheed

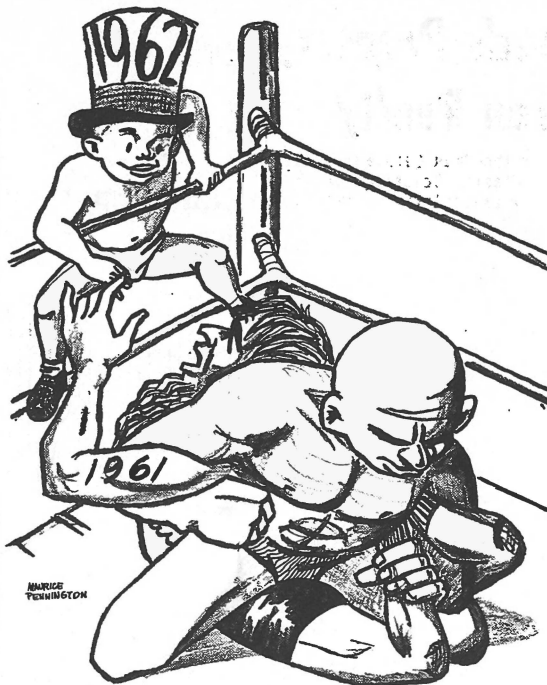
By M. Carl Holman

Perhaps you were one of the fortunate ones who knew in advance, or who just happened to be tuned in on WSB-TV the other morning when Lockheed of Marietta, Georgia, presented its annual Christmas program.

If so, you were privileged to see and hear an Atlanta "First." A choir made up of Lockheed employees opened and closed the program and sang at intervals during the presentation. The voices were good, the music was vibrant with the spirit of the season -- and the men and women, Negro and white, who made up the choir reinforced that spirit by the simple fact that they actually were singing together, rather than apart.

The president of Lockheed reviewed the industrial success of the past year and forecast probable advances which should greatly boost the financial well being of the greater Atlanta community.

But he also found time to praise the "fine singing" of the choir and to speak of Christmas as "a time for all God's universal family to be together in spirit."



TAG!

What Did We Do To Support A Strong Housing Order?

According to stories coming out of Washington, President Kennedy will probably shelve the strong anti-discrimination housing order some Negro and white liberals have been asking for.

This is disappointing news which leaves a bitter taste. But it should not be too surprising.

Negro voters had a great deal to do with putting the Kennedy administration into office. But we have seen little evidence that those controlling the urban power centers have pushed as hard for an open-housing order as they did to get votes for Kennedy.

And, as always, the potent decisions of the Southern senators and representatives can make the difference between success and failure for the Administration's total program. You need hardly ask where the majority of Southern legislators stand on admission of Negroes and whites to Federal housing on a first-come, first-served basis.

But before you start heaving stones, ask yourself a couple of questions.

First of all, what did you and the club, churches, lodges, other organizations to which you belong do to make it clear to the people in Washington that you want non-segregated housing---want it this year, not year after next?

Secondly, what have you done to help kill the county unit system and to build up voter registrations to the point where those who represent the South in Congress will not swing the executioner's ax whenever equality of treatment for all Americans is at stake?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

Thank you for taking time to meet with us in Washington a few days ago. We really appreciate your interest in the Peace Corps and hope that we can count on your support as we continue to develop this program.

From our standpoint, the meeting was most helpful and informative. We made notes of your ideas and hope in the coming weeks that

unteers. He expressed the opinion that Peace Corps service will prove to be an apprenticeship for other kinds of foreign service. I am very anxious that this message get across to young Americans of every race and color.

Again, thank you for your interest and your past and future cooperation.

Sincerely,

Sargent Shriver

If We Are Ready

A sobering, but encouraging article by a Clinton, Tennessee, public school teacher in Sunday's New York Times is entitled "They Are Ready--If We Are."

The "They" refers to the Negro children the author has been teaching in integrated classes in Clinton.

She makes several points about the "overburdened" Negro child who comes into the classroom laden with all the problems created for those of his skin color before he was born.

The Negro child, she says:

- (1) Desires acceptance;
- (2) Finds his academic background is different from that of most of his white schoolmates;;
- (3) Wants recognition for those things he has to offer;
- (4) Is aware of his social and economic status and seriously concerned about his future.

What especially interested us was what the teacher had to say about the homes from which many of these Negro children came, and about the schools from which they transferred or were graduated.

In Atlanta, as in Clinton, these represent problems for the total community it is true. But they also represent special and pressing problems for Negro leadership.

It has been proven through experimental programs in St. Louis, New York City and elsewhere that even in the most crowded slum homes a great deal can be done to provide a positive atmosphere for doing homework and raising classroom performance. And or changing the family's notion of the jobs and futures possible for the children who will stay in school.

We know by heart all the reasons for such inadequacies as remain in all-Negro schools. What is required now is solutions and drastic improvements--even at the cost of shattering certain glass houses.

As the Tennessee teacher says, They are Ready--IF WE ARE.

Smile!

I live in a constant endeavor to fence against the infirmities of ill health and other evils of life by mirth; being firmly persuaded that every time a man smiles--but much more so, when he laughs, it adds something to his Fragment of Life.

—LAURENCE STERNE (1713-68)

have been to our newsgathering staff in 1961.

Your cooperation and the special knowledge you have contributed have been of inestimable value in helping us evaluate and report the news more quickly and authoritatively.

This then is to convey to