

MAYOR INSISTS ON LEASES

Allen Moves to Terminate City's Rent-Free Housing

Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. moved Monday to put a stop to rent-free, city - owned housing for city employes.

Acting under authority given him by the city charter and code, the mayor informed Atlanta aldermen and occupants of city-owned dwellings of his intention to negotiate rental leases for the properties.

Mayor Allen thus is taking action which he has urged the aldermanic board to take for several weeks.

The City of Atlanta has 62 city - owned houses or apartments which are used by gov-

By MARION GAINES

ernment employes on a rent-free and tax-free basis. A handful of the dwellings became vacant in recent months and officials have directed that they not be occupied until the present controversy over policies and standards is resolved.

(Accompanying this article are two more pictures in a series of photos of city-owned houses. The one at 558 Key Road SE, is occupied by Aubrey Thomaston, first deputy administrator at the Atlanta City Prison Farm. He has been with

the city six years; his salary is \$11,154.

(The other house pictured in this edition is at 2541 Chattahoochee Circle NW and is occupied by W. T. Bush, assistant general manager of the Atlanta Water Works, a 19-year veteran earning \$13,998 a year.)

The mayor Monday sent letters to the aldermen and house occupants notifying them that he "shall prepare leases for these properties to begin July 1, 1967."

Backing up his authority to
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Like to Live Here Free?



Staff Photos—Billy Downs

YOU CAN'T. CITY EMPLOYEES ALREADY OCCUPY THEM
House (Top) Is at 558 Key Road SE; Other at 2511 Chattahoochee Circle NW

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take this step, the mayor cited the city code:

"Section 21-23. Employees residing upon property of the city and occupying houses thereon shall pay rent."

He also cited City Charter Provision 2.4.16:

"The mayor shall negotiate all contracts for concessions and leases of every kind in city buildings and city property, all such contracts to be subject to the approval of the Board of Aldermen."

Allen said in the letters he was "proceeding to have the city land agent obtain outside appraisers to determine the value of and the appropriate rental to be charged for all houses owned by the City of Atlanta."

When this has been done, Al-

len told the employe-occupants, "I shall prepare a lease for the house you are living in to become effective July 1."

"Under the terms of the lease and in order not to work a hardship on you, the lease will provide for a charge during the first year of 20 per cent of the rent determined to be proper for the house you are occupying."

"Thereafter, the rentals will be increased by 20 per cent for four additional years so that at the end of four years you will be paying the full rental established for the house you are occupying."

The mayor added: "In the event it is determined that your presence in the house is necessary to the city's operation and that a city employe should live there in order to be

of service to the city on a continuous basis, I shall recommend to the Board of Aldermen that such requirement be included in your job classification and that you be compensated accordingly."

Mayor Allen told a newsman that determination of the employe's necessity for a city house — and any compensation changes — would have to be made through "the proper channels."

That would include evaluation by the City Personnel Board and the aldermanic Finance Committee. Up to now, the determination has been left pretty much to the department head and the aldermanic committee overseeing that department.

The city-owned dwellings are in the prison, construction, aviation and water departments.

The aldermanic board's special Government Study Committee has been studying the matter of city-owned houses for some time but so far has come up with no recommendations.

Mayor Allen recommended to the aldermen several weeks ago that they adopt the policy of a graduated rental for city houses — the same policy which he is now proposing to put into effect himself.

Legislators Study Rule, Reseating

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ommendations for revising the House plan.

"I personally don't want the Senate to be messing with their plan," declared Sen. Paul Broun of Athens. "I want the House to do their own messing."

Most members of the Senate committee agreed that the big problem in further changing their plan is in the Atlanta metropolitan area where Fulton, DeKalb and Cobb counties need to be adjusted.

A question which likely will arise is whether the Senate will feel obligated to change the House plan in accordance with its thinking about the Texas ruling, even if the House doesn't want it changed.

It appeared that the Senate may have to consider eliminating one of its present districts in order for Fulton County to get one more senator.

The legal critique of the court's ruling in the Texas case also emphasized that "justification for disparities in districts from the norm must be articulated on an individual district basis, i. e., the policy against crossing county lines must be related to each district which deviates from the norm, and a general finding by a court, lumping several districts together without individualized treatment, will not be upheld."

Sen. Ben Johnson felt that the court, in looking at any reapportionment plan in Georgia, will pick out a "sore thumb" to prove disparity without justification and that the area among the senatorial districts will be in Fulton, DeKalb and Cobb counties.

Sen. Lamar Plunkett of Bowdon commented, "I think we all want to preserve county lines, but in light of this decision I don't see how we can."

Sen. Broun suggested that maybe the way to solve the Atlanta area problem is to let all 12 senators in Fulton, DeKalb and Cobb run at large.

There was no decision among the Senate committee members as to whether they should proceed on their initial plan to pass one 54-member reapportionment bill and another calling for 56 members which would have to be ratified by the voters in the 1968 general election.

There seemed to be the feeling among House leaders that even if the federal court doesn't accept its present House plan that the legislature could always come back into special session this spring to change it.

The federal court has ordered that the legislature must reapportion both the House and Senate by May 1.

mountain when darkness fell — but the road was still closed.

Some wrecks were reported. The Rev. Charles Pitts, 35, was killed when his car struck another on snow slick roads near West Fannin High School where he was a teacher. The school had been closed, but the Rev. Mr. Pitts had not heard of the closing. He was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in McCaysville.

Weatherman A. C. Gibson at Atlanta's Weather Bureau reported that Monday's snow fell from high altitude clouds — between 10,000 and 20,000 feet — "and it was cold enough in North Georgia that the snow didn't melt on the way down."

It was cold enough on the high mountains, all right. Brasstown Bald's top had warmed up to 19 degrees Monday morning, but the ground was still cold from a 14 degree below zero reading Saturday morning.

Jim Davidson, editor of the Cleveland Courier in White County, reported heavy snow around Hogpen Gap, but not much accumulation in lower areas. "We've got about two inches — which isn't much snow — but the mountains are just white," the editor said.

Headed north out of Atlanta

Sugar Hill Gets Coat Of Icing as Snow Falls

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Monday morning, the first accumulations of snow were seen around Buford and a little south of there. There was fairly thick blanket at Sugar Hill and on the hills around Cumming.

The snow seemed to strike more severely in some places than in others. Dawsonville seemed to have received a light fall, but Dahlonega, just a few miles north and farther east, got two to two and a half inches.

Students at North Georgia College in Dahlonega made the most of the snow, building snow men, engaging in snow battles and tramping out messages on the flat playing fields of the colleges.

\$1 All You Can Eat Tuesday Night, 5 to 9
PER PERSON
FISH FRY
cole slaw—french fries
RUSH PUPPIES
2084 Campbell Rd., S.W.
3104 Buford Hwy.
3304 Shawford Rd.,
Chamblee
beef/ater
Family Restaurants

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ASPIRIN

