

December 4, 1945

Mr. Geo. A. Levy
Anderson, Clayton & Co.
P. O. Box 1415
Atlanta 1, Georgia

Dear Mr. Levy:

In your letter about the lease of the sixth floor of the building soon to be occupied by the University System Center, you are calling to my attention several matters which a business man naturally thinks about when discussing leases and especially in business generally. As one such as myself, who is the agent of the human element only, I should like to bring to your attention the way in which the courts and the public generally, of whom the courts are the agents, will look upon such matters.

The Public Good, and all forces leading to its welfare in matters of safety and health, is something to be reckoned with. Then add to this what the public is at present thinking in terms of the public welfare of its returned soldiers and sailors. The Anderson, Clayton & Co., or any other corporation just as powerful, would be in a sad position over the country with the pressure of a national press urged on by the Veterans Administration and the Legion posts of the country. Picture such a situation, and even Will Clayton himself might send telegrams to your office to have the veterans and friends of veterans satisfied in their efforts to qualify under the GI Bill of Rights.

The Bolling Jones Building was the only available one located in downtown Atlanta of a construction meeting the requirements of disabled veterans following the demand of the government's legislative committee to find such a structure. Such a request was sent to the Board of Regents, and the Regents acted immediately and are on record as a constitutional body stating that the Bolling Jones building was the only available one to meet the demand of several thousand returning veterans, many of whom are crippled and otherwise disabled, in their effort to cooperate with the world.

The very day several thousand students, the majority of whom are veterans, move into the Bolling Jones Building a situation will be

created. As protection against this, not only we, as the agents of these men, but every citizen worth his salt, will be a part of seeing that their every effort will be carried out.

You state that there has been no fire since your occupancy of the building although more than 10,000 square feet of the premises have to do with the handling of cotton. This may be true, but when the fire inspectors come into the building, as they come into all buildings constantly where great groups of students under the public trust congregate, whoever has such inflammable material present must see that it is removed immediately. These inspectors come into our building constantly and are urged by us to come in order that such charges of ours, and these are more precious charges now because they have borne the brunt of battle for us, will be protected in every way.

Fire inspectors of the City of Atlanta, as with the rest of the country, have been more strictly enforcing fire prevention since the Boston fire tragedy. The day after the Boston fire we spent much money here to make an additional exit to one room in our building so that students might reach the open air in safety.

Of the two hundred veterans we have enrolled now, several have artificial limbs, but when we reach the maximum in a few months of several thousand, we expect several hundred such soldiers and sailors making an effort to rehabilitate themselves under the GI Bill of Rights.

In regard to the health hazard, you very readily wrote such a hazard off in comparing it with your own employees, but the students involved are to be thousands of veterans who had all sorts of disablements and are still under the care of doctors at Hospital 48, but whose physical organs may not stand up under floating lint in hallways and elevators, which they may find is the very complaint to which they are allergic. It will just take one such complaint and one army or navy doctor to cause an investigation which would bring the Anderson, Clayton & Co. into an unfavorable light.

Grand juries in Atlanta are constantly meeting and are just looking for situations in order to help the public good, and such a situation as this, from either a fire or health hazard, might be brought to their attention by some veteran or his sympathetic friend.

My experience as an instructor and administrator in two colleges following the last war was that a veteran has either a mental or an actual

Mr. Geo. A. Levy

Page 3

December 4, 1945

petition somewhere about his person ready to go into action. Some of this has already been demonstrated on the campus of the University of Georgia.

I just wonder if the Anderson, Clayton & Co., despite its influence and fine reputation in America now, is willing to face such a situation and the actualities which might deprive this local office of handling any cotton as judged by fire inspectors, grand juries, city councils, or exasperated Georgia legislators.

Cordially yours

GEO. M. SPARKS
Director

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