

November 24, 1967

Congressman Joel T. Broyhill
U.S. House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear fellow Republican,

I have just listened with dismay to your voice via WRC TV Channel 4, News For Washington at Seven, dismissing Rufus Mayfield as having insufficient background to share in the direction of PRIDE.

Sir! Mr. Mayfield originated this idea and implemented it into success, alone. The whole nation is copying his idea that those needing help are eager to help themselves if they can be permitted the self respect of self help, given only the materials without which the project is helpless: a leader from their own ranks and funds just to get the work done.

I have worked in the prison service seven years, in three places. In all, the only assistance to the community was conceived to be the encouragement of the prisoner to want to play with the team instead of against it.

Here is a man who has done the most society can ask and is now being put in his place. What is that place? Mr. Mayfield should head this project nationally. Any lack in his background can be supplied by assistants. Even the President of the United States doesn't run the country single-handed.

Sir, I am reminded of what all the nice people thought of Abraham Lincoln: surely we couldn't have this uncouth, uneducated, unheard of, practicing Christian in the White House.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Irene M. Finley
7305 Baltimore Ave.
College Park, Md., 20740

cc: Mr. Mayfield