Gentlemen—I am quite pleased to have this opportunity to come before your group so that we may get better acquainted. As I was officially elected only yesterday and you were officially organized only a couple of months ago, we meet as "newcomers", and it is my hope that we both have a future which will be of real benefit to our city. I have reviewed your constitution and bylaws so that I might be familiar with your aims, and I admit I am impressed. However, I would make a suggestion that perhaps you amend your constitution to change your annual meeting from the first Thursday in December to the first Tuesday, as the general election is scheduled for the first Wednesday and it might be well for you to have time to make one final review of the candidates to determine who you want as employers.

Actually, the elected officials are not employers, but associates, as the citizenry-at-large is the employer of us all.... and I would like to think we all are one big, happy family for that certainly is the way we should operate. Of course, even the most loving families have spats from time to time—which I consider quite normal even in my own family—and this does not disturb me as long as the members of my family demonstrate maturity to the degree that they understand that I can't do the impossible (including, at times, demands for increases in weekly allowances). I notice the objectives set forth in your constitution make no reference to increased wages (although I do seem to remember one or two city employees asking about this during the campaign), for, of course, your objectives are more sound in that they propose overall improvement in services to our city; and I only hope those
In order to prevent any further complications, I urge you to seek immediate medical attention. If possible, please have a family member or close friend accompany you to the hospital.

I understand your concern for your health and well-being. It is important to prioritize your health above all else. If you require any further assistance or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I appreciate your understanding and cooperation in regards to our current situation.
who hold the purse strings realize we get only what we pay for. . . . .
and I, for one, would like some day for Atlanta to be able to brag that it has the highest paid city employees in the country!

Now, of all your good objectives I would like to pay particular attention to the one encouraging a broader participation in civic activities. There is no better way to be a "part of the community" than to give of yourselves in volunteer work, and I am entirely convinced this can be a big factor in our public relations. I think a good example of this is the role our firemen play in the annual Muscular Dystrophy drive (with which I am personally familiar), as I have witnessed the excellent effect this has had on businessmen-firemen relations. So, if I were to suggest one major project for your incoming president, I would tell you to try to get at least one city employee in each civic agency in Atlanta. You will find such a "Civic Corps" of benefit to the over-all community and personally rewarding to each participant. I feel that I know of what I speak when I refer to the civic world, for this has been my hobby for the past two decades.

My interest in civic work was outlined in the introductory remarks, but let us go further so that you might know me even better. First of all, I think you all will agree that I am not too old...and you did agree (at the Polls) that I am not too young. Half of the members of the Board of Aldermen are under the age of 55, and I am certain I am correct in stating that each of you voted for some candidates in both groups...and I think it is well that a few younger men were elected to the Board, just as I think it was important that a few older men were returned, and I predict that the community at large will profit by this mixture.
It is true that I don't claim to be a master politician...but I do not come to this office completely inexperienced in the ways of politics and governmental service, for I have worked with a number of political candidates, have served in numerous governmental agencies, was an elected member of the Atlanta City Executive Committee for 8 years and even got some real "grass roots" practical political experience serving for a term on the City Council of Mt. Park, Georgia. (Mt. Park, incidentally, is not quite so large as Atlanta, but the job did have some parallel responsibilities. Being an incorporated city, as is Atlanta, it has its own taxes, police force, street paving, sanitary problems, et cetera, and we enjoyed one of the pleasures limited to small cities, whereby the council meetings were of the town hall type where the general public participated equally with the councilmen in all debate.)

I am sorry to say I am not what is referred to as an intellectual, but it might be just as well as they don't usually get elected...but, I am not without a sound educational background, which includes Bachelor of Commercial Science and Bachelor of Law degrees, the training for which should be beneficial to me in the conduct of city business.

Also, I am not a polished public speaker, yet I have no hesitancy in appearing before any group to make a formal presentation or impromptu remarks to reveal my position on any question, and I feel public officials have an obligation to make themselves available for such purposes.

So exactly what do I have to offer...simply a sincere dedication to the principles of good government, with a grateful confidence that I have the ability to play an important role in furthering this process, in this city that I love, through an interest in her people from all walks of life. This is neither more nor less than I promised during
the campaign, and I was pleased that thousands agreed that we could use a little more of these ingredients in the operation of our government. I have never injected myself into any situation where I was satisfied with the status quo...and I have found few areas where improvements couldn't be made...but, this does not imply that I am undertaking the duties of my office with the thought that our entire government is an "urban renewal project" and should be demolished and started over. Quite the contrary, I feel that, comparatively speaking, we have had very good government with many excellent elected office holders, as well as many outstanding administrative employees. Yet I do feel there is room for improvement, and I shall seek out these areas...and, in every deliberation I shall attempt to represent all people equally...whether residents of the north side or south side, whether white or negro, whether businessman or laborer...with an eye to efficient management of your tax dollars, ever demanding 100% adherence to honesty both to and beyond the letter of the law.

Back to you and your organization, I think it also appropriate, particularly at this Holiday Season when we reflect on good will towards all, that we note from your constitution an additional objective of simple "fellowship", which we all should strive to make the true and lasting variety. Nothing can be more important, as you should like your jobs and we all should be friends. I feel that certainly we can work well together, and I shall travel under the assumption that all of you voted for me...at least on the third go-round--and this is the one that counted.
I think your organization can be quite worthwhile. I wish you much success in your undertakings and look forward to working with you in the years ahead.