Dr. J. H. Jackson, 3101 South Parkway
Dr. J. W. Eichelberger, 128 East 58th. Street
Hon. William L. Dawson

Att. Earl Dickerson, 35 and South Parkway c/o Liberty Life Ins.
Company

Very truly yours,
Montgomery Improvement Association

[signed] M. L. King
(Rev.) M. L. King, President

P.S. Please answer the call of the Chairman of the Committee.

TLSr. AJC-ICHi: Box 29.

3. William Jacob Walls (1885-1975) was consecrated as a bishop of the AME Zion Church in 1924
and became a senior bishop in 1951. Joseph Harrison Jackson (1900-1990) served as president of the
secretary of the Department of Christian Education for the AME Zion Church in 1932 and served
there until his death. William L. Dawson (1886-1970) was a Chicago lawyer and city alderman before
being elected to Congress, where he served from 1942 until 1970. Earl Burrus Dickerson was president
of Supreme Liberty Life Insurance (see Dickerson to King, 11 January 1956, pp. 98-99 in this volume).

3 January 1956
Montgomery, Ala.

Williams, publisher of Southern Farmer magazine, was one of the small group of
white liberals in Montgomery who supported the bus boycott. 1

Dear Rev. King:

I never did tell you and the other brave men who joined you in making it how
fine I thought the published statement was.2

It now appears, what Gayle & Co are hawking on is that the Negro people will

1. Aubrey Willis Williams (1890-1965), born in Springville, Alabama, received his B.A. (1920) from
the University of Cincinnati. During the New Deal he held several posts, including executive director
of the National Youth Administration. In 1945 Williams moved to Montgomery and became publisher
of Southern Farmer, the South’s leading liberal magazine until it folded in 1950. From 1948 to 1963 he
was president of the Southern Conference Education Fund, also serving as president of the National
Committee to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee from 1960 to 1963.

On 7 December 1955 the FBI’s Mobile office began forwarding information on the bus boycott to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover. The special agent in charge of the office reports that someone, probably a member of the Montgomery police department, had been assigned to find “derogatory information” about King.
finally get tired of walking etc and give in. I saw 3 Negroes on an Oak Park bus this morning. That's the most I've seen on one bus since the Protest was launched. We have probably reached the critical period.

With every good wish,
[signed] Aubrey Williams

ALS. MLKP-MBU: Box 107.

To the Commissioners of the
City of Montgomery

[9 January 1956]
[Montgomery, Ala.]

At the fourth meeting between Montgomery black leaders and city officials, attorney Fred Gray presented the following resolution, explaining that it was "not a request for the abolition of segregation on buses but for a fair and reasonable seating of passengers to assure all passengers equal treatment." City officials, however, refused to alter existing bus seating arrangements. Mayor Gayle later announced, "we are going to carry out the law as we see it, and state law and city law call for segregation on buses."

TO: The Honorable Commissioners of the City of Montgomery
FROM: The Negro Ministers of the City of Montgomery and their congregations (The Methodist Ministerial Alliance, The Baptist Ministers' Conference, and The Inter-Denominational Ministerial Alliance) and The Montgomery Improvement Association
SUBJECT: The Negro Protest Against The Montgomery City Lines

The organizations named above, in their recent mass meeting, appointed this committee and requested that this committee present to you the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, there are thousands of Negroes in the city and county of Montgomery who have refrained from riding busses owned and operated by the Montgomery City Lines, Incorporated since December 5, 1955, and
WHEREAS, we have made known previously to the City Commissioners of the City of Montgomery, The Montgomery City Lines, Incorporated, and the public