University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa on 3-6 February to protest the registration of its first black student, Autherine Lucy.  

Mr. Fred Drake  
Druid High School  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama  

Dear Mr. Drake:  

I regret very deeply to say at this late date that I will have to cancel my speaking engagement with you. In the light of recent happenings my closest advisors have insisted that I cancel all speaking engagements in Alabama until the mounting tension dies down. I hope that this will not seriously interfere with your program. Please know that I desire to be with you very much, but my present position of leadership in Montgomery demands that I take all precaution possible. Give all of the people at Tuscaloosa my best regards, and give them the assurance that in our struggle for justice here in Montgomery we do not intend to retreat one inch.  

With every good wish, I am  

Sincerely yours,  
M. L. King, Jr.  

MLK:Innt  
TLc. DABCC.  

2. Autherine Lucy (1929—), raised near Shiloh, Alabama, graduated from Miles College in Fairfield, Alabama (1952). After Lucy unsuccessfully applied in 1955 to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa for graduate studies, the NAACP appealed her case to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ordered her enrollment. A student-led mob rocked the campus in early February and physically harassed Lucy as she attended classes. The university suspended her—for her safety, it claimed. Although the university was court-ordered to reinstate her, it expelled her on disciplinary grounds for making conspiracy accusations against school officials. The court that had ordered Lucy’s reinstatement later upheld the university’s action. Lucy ended her fight in April 1956, becoming a part-time English teacher in Shreveport, Louisiana.  

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project
Dear Rev. King:

I telephoned your home shortly after the news report. I was sorry to hear what happened, but I am glad that there is a person of your calibre in town who cannot be intimidated and whose character is so unassailable that they have to attack your porch. Your mother expressed some anxiety about this when I talked with her.

After my conversation with Dr. Mays a few weeks ago in Atlanta, I think that I had better fix my hopes somewhere else for a Dean of our Seminary. I'll discuss this with you when I see you in June.¹

Warmest personal regards to you and the family.

Sincerely yours,

[signed] Samuel D. Proctor
President
SDP:mem

TLSr. MLKP-MBU: Box 91.

¹ Proctor was Men's Day speaker at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in July (see King to Whitaker, 30 April 1956).

From Marcus Garvey Wood

16 February 1956
Baltimore, Md.

Wood, pastor of Baltimore's Providence Baptist Church, affirms the righteousness of the struggle in Montgomery using biblical allusions and calls his Crozer classmate "Lion King."¹ He also compares King to Davy Crockett, the nineteenth-century American pioneer.

Dear Dr. King or Dr. David Croket:

It was one of the happiest moments of my life when I read a few weeks ago of the wonderful work you are doing for your people in the South. I wish I were there to help you. You are becoming as a prophet of this day and age and I hope

¹ Marcus Garvey Wood (1920–), born in Gloucester, Virginia, earned his B.A. (1948) from Storer College and his B.D. (1951) from Crozer Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of Wainwright