Dear Mr. Wilkins:

After consulting with Attorney Shores and his associates, our association decided to have Attorney Shores represent us in the pending case in which some 90 persons have been indicted on a so-called anti-boycott law. The fees involved are $100 per person. I am sure that Attorney Shores will contact you concerning the details.

Before we can make final arrangements with these attorneys, however, we will need to know how much financial assistance will be given by the National Office of the N.A.A.C.P.

It is our understanding that the National Office will lend us financial assistance. One of the problems which we are confronting in raising funds is that so many people are giving through mass meetings sponsored by the N.A.A.C.P. with the impression that the total legal expense is being defrayed by the National Office. Since this money is being raised in the name of our movement, we are hoping that the bulk of it will come to support us in our legal struggle. With the coming of this court case our expenses have risen to astronomical proportions. Our car pool is still in operation which along with a well-staffed office will run at least $3,000 per week. And of course there is the present court case which will run approximately $10,000. And there is also the case in the federal courts which will be of tremendous expense. With all of these expenses it is vitally important that we have the support of persons and organizations over the nation.

We will appreciate all of the support that you can possibly give and we are more than grateful to the National Office for the cooperation and encouragement that it has already given to our movement.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially Yours,

M. L. King, Jr.,
President

MLK/ehr

TLC. MLKP-MBU: Box 64.

To Archibald James Carey, Jr.

3 March 1956
Montgomery, Ala.

Responding to Carey's 24 February inquiry, King notes that the MIA's "most pressing need is for additional finances." On 5 March Carey reported that Bishop George W.
Baber had requested donations from Michigan AME churches, but advised, “I do not know where he plans to send [the donations].” Carey indicated that he would use his influence to have funds sent where King wished, “and I will treat your opinion as a confidential communication, if you so indicate.” With help from the NAACP’s Chicago branch Carey organized an April prayer meeting at the Chicago Coliseum featuring Ralph Abernathy and Roy Wilkins that generated $2,500 for the MIA.¹

Mr. Archibald J. Carey, Jr.
188 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Carey:

Thanks for your very kind letter of February 24, making inquiry concerning what our needs are at this particular time. Our most pressing need is for additional finances. Our car pool is still in operation, plus the need for a well staffed office. At present we are in the process of revamping our transportation system. With this new system our transportation will run approximately $3,000.00 a week. Along with these responsibilities, we confront a court case, in which some 100 persons have been indicted for giving assistance in the present non-violent protest against injustice. In order to fight this in the courts, we will need unlimited funds. Whatever you can do to assist us at this point will be highly appreciated.

May I close by saying we are always in need of your prayers.

Cordially yours,

[signed]
M. L. King, Jr.,
President.

MLK/ds

TLS. AJC-ICHi: Box 27.

¹. See Carey to King, 10 April 1956; and Abernathy to Carey, 17 April 1956.

From S. Paul Schilling

4 March 1956
Boston, Mass.

Schilling, professor of systematic theology at Boston University and second reader of King’s doctoral dissertation, responds to news accounts of the bus boycott movement. “I thank God for what you are doing,” he writes, “and the emphasis you are laying on Christian love.”