same discipline, with the same Christian approach. I believe that God is using Montgomery as his proving ground. It may be that here in the capital of the Confederacy, the birth of the ideal of freedom in America and in the Southland can be born. God be praised for you, for your loyalty, for your determination. God bless you and keep you, and may God be with us as we go on." 

TTa. MLKP-MBU: Box 80.

5. Holden noted that following King’s address and testimonials from other MIA leaders, he returned to the podium: “I want to ask you all a question. I want to ask you because they said in court that I started the protest. They said that a selfish, power-seeking group who wanted to get publicity started it. Who started the protest? Audience—’We did.’ ‘The bus drivers’. ‘The bus company’. King—I heard that you are tired of it. Are you tired? Audience—’No, No.’ ‘We’re going to keep on.’”

From Frank L. Stanley

22 March 1956
Louisville, Ky.

The editor of the Louisville Defender informs King that his 18 March sermon at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church will be published in his newspaper. Stanley was in Montgomery to cover the trial for the newspaper and convey Alpha Phi Alpha’s support for its fellow member. Stanley, fraternity general secretary James Huger, and southern vice president Lewis O. Swingler presented a check for $1,000 to the MIA at a 20 March mass meeting.

Reverend M. L. King, Jr.
Dexter Avenue Baptist Church
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Brother King:

Here is a copy of your sermon as copied by me. I plan to use it in a feature I am doing on Montgomery.

If at all convenient, send me by return air mail special a photo of you and wife or alone, or in a group. I am assuming that you have prints of some of the many photos made of you. I want to use them to help raise some money for the cause that you are so nobly fighting.

It was a source of unlimited inspiration to be with you during the beginning days of your trial. Your father and I journeyed back to Louisville together and I had the opportunity of meeting your fine mother in the Atlanta airport.

Alpha will be sending you additional sums. The least we can do is to supply

2. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Newsletter 5, no. 4 (23 March 1956).
financial and moral support to you, our champion of human decency. I know
that your conviction by Judge Carter neither surprised nor unnerved you. If you
have made any public statement on the outcome of the trial, please send me a
copy immediately.

What you are doing is not only a tribute to your great leadership in Montgom-
ery, but it will forever remain the outstanding example of the most intelligent
and effective resistance to bigotry known to our people.

May God keep you erect as you carry out His work where it counts the most.

Fraternally,
[signed] Frank
Frank L. Stanley,
General President
b
Enclosure

TLS. MLKP-MBU: Box 13A.

Interview by Joe Azbell

[23 March 1956]
[Montgomery, Ala.]

Joe Azbell of the Montgomery Advertiser interviewed King the day after his
conviction. According to Azbell, King stated during the interview: “We don’t want to
be unreasonable. We would end the boycott tomorrow if we could get some type of give.
But we’re not getting any give. We’re being treated like we’re down there to cause
trouble.”

[King:] I feel that there will be a victory and it will be greater than any particu-
lar race. It will be for the improvement of the whole of Montgomery, and I think
that is so because this is a spiritual movement depending on moral and spiritual
forces.

[Azbell:] You’ve had some rather personal trying experiences yourself. Are you
afraid?

[King:] No I’m not. My attitude is that this is a great cause, it is a great issue
that we are confronted with and that the consequences for my personal life are
not particularly important. It is the triumph of the cause that I am concerned
about. And I have always felt that ultimately along the way of life an individual
must stand up and be counted and be willing to face the consequences whatever
they are. And if he is filled with fear he cannot do it. My great prayer is always for
God to save me from the paralysis of crippling fear, because I think when a per-

Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Years, 1986, Blackside, Inc.