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 Montgomery, 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

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Enclosure

TLS. MLKP-MBU: Box 13A.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

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 particular 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-

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son lives with the fears of the consequences for his personal life he can never do anything in terms of lifting the whole of humanity and solving many of the social problems which we confront in every age and every generation.

At. MMFR: Sync Sound 48.

From Samuel DuBois Cook

23 March 1956
Baton Rouge, La.

Cook, a philosophy professor at Southern University in Baton Rouge, had been King's classmate at Morehouse, serving as student body president as well as a founder of the campus NAACP branch. After remarking on their similar training in philosophical theology, Cook declares that King had "achieved that rare combination of social action and love."

Dear M. L.,

It has been a long time, much too long in fact, since we have conversed. When you spoke at Southern, I had returned to the Army for discharge; hence I missed seeing you. From a variety of sources, however, I understand you were really great—which, of course, is precisely what I expected.

Congratulations on your many accomplishments since you left the "house." Especially do I want to congratulate you for having won your doctorate in a most difficult area, philosophical theology. Since I have read considerably the works of Brunner, Barth, Niebuhr, Buber, Ferre, and Tillich, I have some appreciation of the dimensions, depth, and wonder of philosophical theology. Incidentally, my dissertation deals with ethics and democracy. I have chapters in it on "Christianity and Democracy," "The Neo-Orthodoxy of Reinhold Niebuhr," and "The Neo-Thomism of Jacques Maritain." Hence there is a parallel element in our inquiries subsequent to our graduation from Morehouse.

Busy people seem always to emit excuses or at least explanations for writing as