experience to see both of you, since it has been so long since we have seen each 5July
other. I hope you will find it possible to stop through Montgomery next time you
1956
are in this section. Coretta and I are doing fine. We have a little daughter now,
Yolanda Denise, who is a little more than seven months old. She is really the boss
of the family.

With warm personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

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

T.L.S. WTH.

2. On 18 September Handy wrote King to thank him and Coretta for a wonderful visit during the
summer.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

To Glenn E. Smiley

5 July 1956
Montgomery, Ala.

King responds to Smiley’s letters of 11, 18, and 20 June. In this correspondence Smiley
discussed arrangements for King’s participation in an upcoming workshop for
southern movement leaders in Tuskegee on 17–18 July. In his 20 June letter, Smiley
enclosed a suggestion by Alfred Hassler, editor of Fellowship, urging the MIA to
purchase space in the Montgomery Advertiser every week in order to explain “the
reasons for its actions in the bus situation.” Hassler asserted that such a column
would “create a wordless but vital understanding between the two communities.”
Smiley affirmed the idea: “Of all the things that you are doing in the MIA, the weakest
seems to be at the point of interpretation to the people whom we eventually want to live
with in harmony and love.” In September the MIA appointed a special committee,
which included King, to explore ways of influencing white attitudes; shortly thereafter,
King initiated discussions with the editor of the Advertiser about a statement, but it
never appeared.

1. Alfred Hassler (1910–1991) was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and grew up in New York City.
He studied journalism at Columbia University and then worked for American Baptist Publications in
Philadelphia. In 1942 he became editor of the FOR journal Fellowship. In 1960 he assumed the position
of executive secretary of the United States Fellowship, serving until his retirement in 1974. He was also
president of the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace.

2. See W. J. Powell, Minutes of MIA Special Committee, 25 September 1956; Grover C. Hall to King,
10 October 1956; and King to Hall, 29 October 1956.
5 July 1956

The Rev. Glenn E. Smiley, Field Secretary
21 Audubon Avenue
New York 32, New York

Dear Glenn,

On my return to the city, after being away for several weeks, I found your three letters. The contents of all have been noted with care. The first letter, I think, deals with the Workshop to be held at Tuskegee Institute July 17 and 18. I think all of the arrangements are very good so far, and the rates are about as good as we can find. Accommodations are always extraordinarily good at Dorothy Hall. I know that this will be a very fruitful workshop. I will look forward to hearing from you concerning the invitation.

The second letter concerns my coming to Chicago to speak for The Fellowship of Reconciliation. Certainly I can see the predicament that you are in at this point. And I assure you that I regret saying no to you almost more than anybody I know, if for no other reason than the fact that you have been so helpful to me in our personal encounters. However, my doctor is insisting that I slow up and stop living such a rushed schedule. I feel that it will be entirely too much of a rush for me to speak Friday night in Denver and leave Saturday morning for Chicago and speak that afternoon in Chicago and then return to Denver to preach the next morning. I do hope you will understand my situation and the strain under which I am working. I am very sorry that this conflict has arisen. I know no organization that I would enjoy speaking to more than the FOR. I hope you will hold a place for me somewhere on the agenda for the next meeting.

The next letter deals with the suggestion of buying space in the Montgomery Advertiser to interpret our point of view to the white community. I have read Mr. Hassler’s suggestion very carefully, and I think this is an excellent idea. It is one of the things that has been neglected throughout our movement. I will take up the matter with a few members of the Executive Board immediately. Also, I will contact the Advertiser to see if it is possible to purchase such space. As soon as this is done, I will let you know the outcome.

I hope everything is going well with you. I will look forward to hearing from you in the very near future. I intended writing more in this letter, but my desk is stacked with a pile of mail that must be answered immediately.

Sincerely yours,

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

MLK:b

TLS. FORP-PSC-P.