SP2 Homer Greene, RA 32 808 912
Admin. Svc. Company
3d Division
Fort Benning, Georgia

Dear Mr. Greene:

Thanks for your very kind letter of June 25, expressing deep concern for our struggle here in Montgomery. I read your letter very carefully, and was very happy to know of your interest.

I don’t know of the Mr. Rogers that you refer to in your letter. I have never spoken over any program sponsored by a Mr. Rogers. It is probable that someone else from Montgomery spoke over the program. One of the things that we have insisted on throughout the protest is that we steer clear of any Communistic infiltration and I think we have succeeded very well to this point. I only hope that we will be able to continue our struggle without anything that borders on Communism.

However, your point is well taken. We must always be on guard for possible exploitation by Communist forces. Thanks very much for your concern. I will inquire from Mrs. Rosa Parks, the lady whose arrest precipitated the protest, whether or not she spoke on Mr. Rogers’ program.

Yours very truly,
M. L. King, Jr.,
President
MLK:b

TLc. MLKP-MBU: Box 17.

---


To J. Raymond Henderson

10 July 1956
[Montgomery, Ala.]
Dear Rev. Henderson:

I have written you and your lovely wife a thousand times in my mind but I am just getting to the point of putting it on paper. There is a word in Catholic Theology called “supererogation” which means in substance “more than justice requires.” I can assure you that the kind hospitality that you and Mrs. Henderson rendered toward Mrs. King and me was a work of supererogation. Words can never adequately express our appreciation to you. To have been able to preach in your great church for a week was an unsurpassable experience. To have been in your palatial home was living life in all of its abundance. I only hope that some day we will be able to return the kindness in some little way.

We had a very nice trip back to Montgomery. The NAACP Convention went over in a big way. We arrived in Montgomery on Saturday evening, June 30, in time to get plenty of rest for the Sunday morning service. We found our little daughter doing fine and still growing as fast as ever.

Things are going very well here in Montgomery now. Rev. Fields seems to be in line, and the internal structure of our organization is as strong as ever.

I hope things are going well with you and Mrs. Henderson. Be sure to tell the madam that she is one of the most charming and impressive minister’s wives that I have ever met. She gets “A” on my book straight down the line. Give my best regards to all of my friends in Los Angeles and to all of the members of your church.

Again, I say I will never forget this experience. And I will never forget your real genuine friendship.

Sincerely yours,

M. L. King, Jr.

MLKb

P.S. We will look forward to seeing you in Denver.

From John Patterson

12 July 1956
Montgomery, Ala.

Alabama attorney general Patterson sought King’s testimony in the state’s attempt to ban NAACP activities, including raising funds, collecting dues, and soliciting new members.1 Patterson argued that the NAACP was behind the “illegal boycott” in

1. John Malcolm Patterson (1921–), born in Goldville, Alabama, received his law degree from the University of Alabama in 1949. Patterson was attorney general of Alabama from 1955 to 1959 and governor from 1959 to 1963.