Dear Martin:

When I arrived at home I was delighted to find your personal letter of June 1st. You need have no misgivings about not having written earlier for I can well understand that your burden of work must be truly overwhelming in these days.

Your letter is a renewing inspiration to me as has been the marvelous leadership which you have given to our people in the south land during these last months. Indeed, the news concerning your leadership has gone throughout the world. I can testify that the self-discipline, courage, and faith of the people who are working with you in Montgomery have brought new courage and self-respect to many Christian people living under gross injustice in lands far across the sea.

Now that I am in the United States again I am wondering if there is anything that I could do which would be helpful to you. Please let me know. I shall be happy to share your reply with others who I know would also be eager to assist you in this glorious struggle. Please call upon us.

May God continue to bless and sustain you and your family and associates and may He bring to you victory for all the people, for which you are making such great sacrifices.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Cordially yours,

[signed] Harold DeWolf
L. Harold DeWolf
LHD:hh

TALS. MLKP-MBU: Box 15.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

From Warren Olney III

7 September 1956
Washington, D.C.

Two Department of Justice officials, Assistant Attorney General Olney of the Criminal Division and Arthur B. Caldwell, chief of the division's Civil Rights Section, respond to the 27 August letter from Montgomery bus boycott leaders to President Eisenhower.1

1. Warren Olney III (1904–1978) was an Oakland, California, native who became a close associate of Earl Warren, serving with him in the Alameda County district attorney's office and, after Warren became California attorney general, as assistant attorney general. In 1953 Olney became assistant attorney general in charge of the U.S. Justice Department's criminal division. Olney helped draft the 1957 Civil Rights Act. Arthur Brann Caldwell (1906–1984) began working for the Department of Justice in 1935 and from 1951 to 1957 was chief of its Civil Rights Section. During the 1957 Little Rock desegregation crisis he was called upon to negotiate with Orval Faubus, governor of his home state of Arkansas.
Reverend M. L. King, Jr., President
The Montgomery Improvement Association
530 South Union Street
Montgomery, Alabama

8 Sept 1956

Dear Reverend King:

This acknowledges your letter of August 27, 1956 with respect to alleged threats and violence directed against Negro citizens of Montgomery, including the bombings of certain homes on January 30, February 1, and August 24 of this year. Your letter also states that thousands of Negroes of the State of Alabama are being deprived of the right to vote because of their race.

The information concerning the alleged violence, the activities of the White Citizens Council and the local officers, does not appear to indicate violations of federal criminal statutes. We are concerned however, with the statement concerning the alleged denial of the right to vote on the ground of race or color. If you know of specific instances of this, and will furnish us with full information concerning the same, you may be assured that it will receive prompt and careful consideration.

Sincerely,

WARREN OLNEY III
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

By: [signed]

ARTHUR B. CALDWELL
Chief, Civil Rights Section

TLSr. MLKP-MBU: Box 66A.

From C. W. Kelly

8 September 1956
Denver, Colo.

In an 18 July letter Kelly, pastor emeritus of Tuskegee's Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church, had characterized King's leadership as a "missionary journey akin to Paul's of old." He added that "Paul never did it more effectively." Writing the day after King delivered "Paul's Letter to American Christians" to an audience of ten thousand at the seventy-sixth annual meeting of the National Baptist Convention in Denver, Kelly

1. Charles W. Kelly (1887—?), born in Columbia, Tennessee, received his B.A. from Fisk University in 1913. After graduating from Oberlin Theological Seminary he became pastor of Tuskegee's Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church in 1920, serving there until his retirement in 1953. He was active in the Tuskegee Civic Association and its several precursors. Kelly was close to Vernon Johns and other Dexter pastors.