25 October 1956
Washington, D.C.

Presidential assistant and cabinet secretary Rabb acknowledges the 27 August letter from King and other Montgomery black leaders to President Eisenhower. Department of Justice officials Warren Olney III and Arthur B. Caldwell had responded to the letter on 7 September.

Reverend M. L. King, Jr.
530 S. Union Street
Montgomery Alabama

Dear Mr. King:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of recent date. We regret the delay in replying but your letter arrived while we were in San Francisco and due to the heavy volume of mail received, were unable to process your letter at an earlier date.

The situation in Montgomery has been followed with interest and the President appreciates having your views and analysis. I am advised that the Department of Justice is aware of the problem.

Sincerely,

[signed]
Maxwell M. Rabb

TLS. MLKP-MBU: Box 64.

1. Maxwell M. Rabb (1910-) was a Harvard-educated lawyer who served as Eisenhower's campaign manager in 1952. In 1958 he left the administration to join a New York law firm. He later served on the board of directors of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

From B. J. Simms

26 October 1956
Montgomery, Ala.

Simms, a Baptist minister and Alabama State College professor, had served as director of transportation for the MIA car pool for five months. On 13 September the MIA

1. B. J. Simms (1904—), a native of Alabama, came to Montgomery in 1931 to attend Alabama State College. He served as the first principal of Alabama State Laboratory High School, a black high school in Montgomery. After receiving a scholarship (sponsored by Dexter Avenue Baptist Church) to pursue
executive board asked him to reimburse the organization for car pool funds that he had apparently misplaced, an action that may have prompted him to resign the post. Simms subsequently assumed a new leadership position as the MIA's promotional director.

To the President and members of the Executive Committee of The Montgomery Improvement Association, Inc.

Dear Brethren:

For nearly seven months I have labored and given my all to the association and the people of Montgomery for the cause of freedom. I have done my best in spite of many hinderances and obstacles placed in my path. In spite of the above roadblocks and difficulties in my path, I have labored without stint and given my all to the movement. I have now, after careful consideration, decided that I cannot, under the present conditions, continue in the position as Director of Transportation. I am therefore submitting my resignation to be effective at once or no later than Wednesday, October 31, 1956. In submitting my resignation I wish it known that I am not severing my association with the organization and that I will therefore continue to cooperate with all my heart towards the successful attainment of our goal of dignity and freedom for all.

In closing, I wish to thank all who supported me in my efforts to effect a workable transportation system for our people, for without your support and encouragement I could not have gone on under the existing conditions of which I have had to work.

Respectfully submitted

[signed]

(Rev.) B. J. Simms, Director
Transportation

TLS.MLK-P-MBU: Box 30.

divinity studies at Oberlin College, Simms was ordained a Baptist minister in 1942 and received a master of theology from Oakland College. During World War II he helped establish a USO branch for African Americans. In 1946 Simms became chaplain of Alabama State and later a professor of history, while serving as an itinerant minister on weekends. Simms was appointed chair of the transportation committee to reform the car pool system and served on the MIA executive board. He was among those indicted for his role in the boycott.

2. W. J. Powell, Minutes, MIA Executive Board Meeting, 13 September 1956.

From Walter R. McCall

29 October 1956
Fort Valley, Ga.

McCall thanks King for recommending him to a Savannah church and indicates that two other churches are considering him as well. Several months later Atlanta's...