of such at the time that it was impossible for me to have the interview. I know nothing that I would have welcomed more. Let me express my personal appreciation to you for your interest in our struggle for justice. Please know that your moral support and Christian generosity are of inestimable value in the continuance of our struggle.

Very sincerely yours,

M. L. King, Jr.,
President
MLK:b

Transcribed and signed in the absence of Rev. King.

TLSr. ERC-NHyF.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

To Richard H. Dixon

8 November 1956

[Montgomery, Ala.]

Facing a 13 November circuit court hearing on the city’s effort to shut down the car pool and a federal court hearing the following day on the MIA’s request to enjoin the city’s interference in MIA operations, King declines Dixon’s invitation to speak in Pontiac, Michigan. On 9 April 1956 Dixon had forwarded $700 to the MIA from the Oakland County Ministerial Fellowship, of which he was president.

Trinity Baptist Church
Wessen at Maple Street
Pontiac, Michigan

Dear Richard:

Thanks for your very kind letter of October 22. First, let me apologize for being so tardy in my reply. Absence from the city for several days accounts for the delay. On returning to the city I discovered that we are once more confronted with court cases. In a desperate attempt to defeat our car pool the city has sought an injunction through the court. This means that for several days next week we will

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1. Richard H. Dixon, Jr. (1923–), received his B.A. from Bishop College, his B.Th. from American Baptist Theological Seminary, and his B.D. from Colgate Seminary. He served as pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Pontiac, Michigan, before being called to Macedonia Baptist Church in Mount Vernon, New York. He later headed the Westchester Urban League, the United Black Clergy of Westchester, and the Westchester Christian Leadership Conference. In 1964 Dixon accompanied King and his family to the Nobel Peace Prize ceremonies in Oslo, Norway.
be involved in court proceedings. In the light of this I have had to decline all invitations for speaking engagements for the next month or so. The injunction will mean that our whole transportation system will have to be reorganized. It is absolutely necessary that I be on hand to supervise this monumental responsibility. But for this, I would have been more than happy to come to Pontiac. Please know that I regret this very deeply.

I hope things are going well with you and your work in Pontiac. I was delighted to know that you plan to contribute five dollars a week to our cause from your church. This will go a long, long way in aiding us in our struggle. I will look forward to seeing you in the very near future.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

M. L. King, Jr.,
President

MLK:b

Transcribed and signed in the absence of Rev. King.

TLC: MLKP-MBU: Box 66.

From Julius Waties Waring

9 November 1956
New York, N.Y.

King and Ralph Abernathy had invited Waring, a retired federal district judge, to attend the MIA's Institute on Nonviolence and Social Change in early December. Waring had nullified South Carolina's white Democratic primary in 1947, and his 1951 dissent in a school desegregation case, Briggs v. Elliott, helped set the stage for the Supreme Court's Brown decision in 1954.

Messrs. M. L. King and Ralph D. Abernathy,
Montgomery Improvement Association,
530-C So. Union Street,
Montgomery, Alabama.

Gentlemen:

I wish to offer to you and the Montgomery Improvement Association my hearty congratulations on the great fight for freedom and the American Creed which

1. Julius Waties Waring (1880–1968), born in Charleston, South Carolina, received his B.A. (1900) from the College of Charleston. He served as assistant United States attorney in Charleston from 1914 to 1920 and as the city of Charleston's corporation counsel from 1923 to 1942. President Roosevelt appointed Waring to the federal bench in 1942, where he served until his retirement in 1952. He often endured harassment because of his pro-civil rights rulings.