solute causal will. And this point God neither thinks, nor causes, nor cooperates with evil, for God has an absolute ultimate causal will which only causes good. But then there is another aspect to God's will and that is God's permissive will. Since God through his absolute ultimate causal will decided to give man freedom, he had to make it possible for evil to exist if men did not properly use their freedom. And so because of the frailties and inadequacies and sinfulness of human nature, God has to have alongside his ultimate, absolute will, a permissive will. And so God never causes evil. But sometimes he permits evil to exist in order to carry out his creative and redemptive work. That is beautifully told in that story back in Genesis which stands before us. Here was Joseph [recording interrupted] [ . . . ]

Vt. CBSNA-CBSN.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

Outline, Address to MIA Mass Meeting at Bethel Baptist Church

[14 January 1957]
[Montgomery, Ala.]

Returning to Montgomery after a Sunday evening address in Nashville, King delivered an emotional prayer at the MIA's regular Monday night mass meeting. After exhorting the audience to remain nonviolent—"Don't shoot back, even though it may be difficult"—he declared that if "anyone should be killed, let it be me." The press reported that King then collapsed at the pulpit and had to be led to his seat by two ministers.1 King initially disputed the news accounts: "It was simply a matter of people breaking down. . . . I decided it was time to stop the prayer because the audience had gone almost to pandemonium. I shed no tears nor was I overcome with emotion. To the contrary, I was calm and balanced throughout."2 King later acknowledged having been "in the grips of an emotion I could not control" and that he, "for the first time, broke down in public."3 King had written the following outline on the verso of the program for the Birmingham Emancipation Day Celebration, at which he spoke on 1 January.

{over the last week} We have been the victims of a

I Over the last few weeks we have been the victims of the most startling and appalling expression of man's inhumanity to man. Several of our people have been needlessly beaten, one of humble ladies—an expectant mother—has been viciously shot, and to climax it all

2. "Negro Minister Questions Plan For All-White Buses," Montgomery Advertiser, 16 January 1957; see also King to Fannie E. Scott, 28 January 1957, p. 113 in this volume.
3. King also remembered that, "unexpectedly, this episode brought me great relief" (Stride Toward Freedom, p. 178).
two of our churches homes and six [four] of our churches have been bombed. It is tragic and terrible for men to bomb the homes of other men, but to bomb the house of God is even more tragic and terrible. When men sink this low they have fallen to a level of tragic barbarity devoid of any moral sensitivity.

II As far as I can see we are suffering today because we have committed three crimes.

III Now why we have to suffer like this I do not know. But I am sure that it has some purpose. It may be that we are called upon to be God's suffering servants through which [whom] he is working his redemptive plan.

IV Let us not become bitter as a result of this situation. Let us continue to love.

V Let us take a new stand on non-violence. How are we to meet violence.

VI We must keep standing up.

ADd. MLKP-MBU: Box 81.

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4. Rosa Jordan was shot on 28 December as she rode a Montgomery city bus.

5. According to news reports King elaborated on this point, noting that Montgomery blacks were "apparently guilty of three crimes: first, being born a Negro; secondly, merely desiring to have human dignity; and third, humbly following what is the law of the land" (Cole, "King Collapses in Prayer During Negro Mass Meeting").

6. King reportedly added: "Stand firm on love and peace . . . [Of] white men willing to take destructive measures in their hands, harm them not because they already stand before God and the world reeking with the stench of Negro blood" (Cole, "King Collapses").

To Alfred Hassler

18 January 1957

[Montgomery, Ala.]

On 3 January Hassler, editor of the Fellowship of Reconciliation's monthly magazine, asked King to send a statement acknowledging the role of FOR and its field secretary Glenn Smiley in the success of the bus boycott. He promised King and Robert Graetz, who received a similar letter, that their statements would not be used for "general publicity" but only in a fundraising report to FOR members. Hassler acknowledged King's declination on 1 February.

1. Graetz replied on 15 May 1957, applauding FOR and Smiley for their "important and lasting contribution to our movement in Montgomery."

2. Hassler indicated that he appreciated King's position: "We have all felt it has been a privilege to have participated to the degree that we have been able in your movement, and our only concern was to let our members know that this participation had been of some significance. Under the circumstances, we shall have to hope that they will know this to be the case through other media."