

Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Ebenezer Baptist Church

407 Auburn Avenue, N. E.

Atlanta, Georgia

Murray S-7263

September 14, 1960

Dear Professor Thompson:

Thank you for the factual report concerning the Greyhound Lines incident at Jacksonville, Florida.

Despite the existence of very firm Federal statutes providing protection for interstate travellers, there continues the abuse of persons and instances involving the ignoring of the federal protections. I wish to commend you for your very forthright reaction to this gross injustice. I am at this time, through my organization the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, engaged in a program which I feel will correct much of this kind of abuse. I assure you that every means will be used to bring about a change in these practices. However, if a national boycott is necessary then I will lend everything possible to its effective application.

I am happy to be back in Atlanta. Many of those very near and dear to me are here, and it is among these, my friends, that I find much happiness. The offer of your prayers and the encouragement I feel that you are one of many who approve of my return to Atlanta brightens the way for me.

May God continue to bless you in all of your endeavors.

Very sincerely yours,


Martin L. King, Jr.

Professor Claude Thompson
Candler School of Theology
Emory University
Atlanta 22, Georgia

MLK:mlb

Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Ebenezer Baptist Church

407 Auburn Avenue, N. E.

Atlanta, Georgia

Murray 8-7253

November 5, 1960

Dr. Claude Thompson, Professor of Systematic Theology
Emory University
Atlanta 22, Georgia

Dear Dr. Thompson:

I am about to leave town but I hasten to write a note in answer to your letter which I just received.

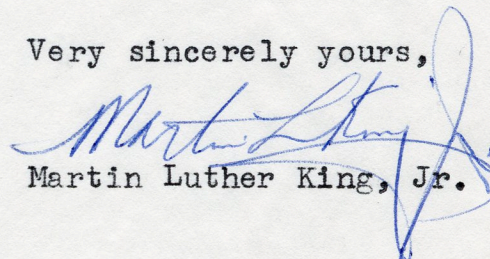
I am very grateful to you for your suggestion concerning my position in the coming election, and may I say that I agree with you absolutely. As you probably know, I had a press conference two days ago and made it palpably clear that I would not endorse either candidate.

While I felt compelled to thank Senator Kennedy for his call to my wife and other expressions of concern, I wanted to make it clear that this should not be construed in any way as an endorsement. I hope my position got over to the public.

Always feel free to write me on any issue. I greatly respect your thinking and appreciate you as a person. I have long admired your courage and Christian witness.

I hope that we will have an opportunity to talk in the not too distant future.

Very sincerely yours,



Martin Luther King, Jr.

MLK.m

334 Auburn Ave., N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone 522-1420

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Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Martin Luther King Jr., *President*

Ralph Abernathy, *Treasurer*

Andrew J. Young, *Executive Director*

November 11, 1964

Dr. Claude Thompson
Candler School of Theology
Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia

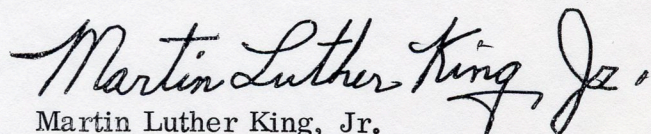
Dear Dr. Thompson:

May I express my deep and sincere gratitude to you for your very warm message on the announcement of my being chosen as the recipient of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. Your encouraging words and your genuine expressions of confidence give me new determination to carry on the struggle to make the brotherhood of man a reality. Certainly I was moved, honored and gratified to learn of my being chosen for such a significant honor. But as I said on receiving word of the Nobel Peace Prize, I cannot accept this as an honor to me personally; it is rather a tribute to the discipline, dignity, courage and calm reasonableness with which Negro and white persons of good will have struggled to establish a reign of justice and a rule of love across this nation of ours. In short, the Nobel Peace Prize of 1964 is an award to the whole civil rights movement and its dedicated leaders. It is for this reason that I have decided to give every dollar accompanying the award to the civil rights movement.

This award should inspire all of us to work a little harder and with more determination to make the American Dream a reality. It should also challenge us to work passionately and unrelentingly to discover the international implications of nonviolence; for in a real sense, there can be no justice without peace and there can be no peace without justice. If mankind is survive, we must come to see that war is obsolete and must be cast into unending limbo.

Thank you again for your kind expressions. May God continue to bless you and yours as we work for a better distribution of wealth, for a warless world and for a brotherhood that transcends race or color.

Yours for the cause of peace and brotherhood,


Martin Luther King, Jr.

Kg