

23 May  
1956      Again, let me express my sincere appreciation to you and the members of the fraternity. I will be looking forward with great anticipation to receiving this award. Please feel free to contact me concerning further details.

Fraternally yours,  
M. L. King, Jr.,  
President

MLK:b

TLc. MLKP-MBU: Box 14.

To Hobson R. Reynolds

23 May 1956  
[Montgomery, Ala.]

*On 18 April Reynolds had informed King that he would receive the Lovejoy Award, given annually by the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World to an American citizen "who has made a great contribution towards the advancement of minority groups in America."<sup>1</sup> Previous recipients included Marian Anderson, Mary McLeod Bethune, Ralph Bunche, and Thurgood Marshall. King attended the award ceremony on 27 August in Los Angeles. In May 1944 he had participated in an Elks oratorical contest in Dublin, Georgia, delivering a speech entitled "The Negro and the Constitution."<sup>2</sup>*

Judge Hobson R. Reynolds  
Grand Director  
Elks Department of Civil Liberties  
I.B.P.O.E.W.  
1522 North 16th Street  
Philadelphia 21, Pa.

Dear Judge Reynolds:

This is just a note to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 18, and to state how happy I was to hear from you. It was a real pleasure having you in our city

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1. Hobson R. Reynolds (1898–1991), born in Winton, North Carolina, opened Reynolds Funeral Home after graduating from Echels College of Mortuary Science. In 1934 he was elected to the Pennsylvania General Assembly. During his two terms he drafted the Reynolds Civil Rights Bill, the first such legislation in Pennsylvania, and served as a family court judge in Philadelphia. President Roosevelt chose Reynolds to be an observer at the formation of the United Nations, and President Eisenhower appointed him as assistant secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Reynolds joined Elks in the early 1930s and became Grand Director of Civil Liberties in 1939. He was elected Grand Exalted Ruler in 1960, in which capacity he served until 1982.

2. See *Papers* 1:109–111.

and in our home. You were a real inspiration to the whole community in our struggle.

24 May  
1956

I am looking forward with great anticipation to receiving the "Lovejoy Award." Let me again express my appreciation to you and the members of the committee for choosing me for this great honor. I will accept it with great humility and profound gratitude. Please feel free to contact me concerning further details.

Very sincerely yours,  
M. L. King, Jr.,  
President

MLK:b

TlC. MLKP-MBU: Box 16.

### "Recommendations to MIA Executive Board"

24 May 1956  
[Montgomery, Ala.]

*Recognizing that the bus boycott might continue indefinitely, King makes recommendations for restructuring the MIA to "prepare ourselves for a long struggle." These include reducing the number of mass meetings from two to one each week, streamlining the MIA decision-making process and financial management, and creating newsletter and history committees. To increase economic and political power, King emphasizes the need for voter registration and an MIA-sponsored savings and loan association. On 31 May King presented these recommendations to the executive board, which accepted his suggestions.*

1. In order to lessen the pressure that we have worked under for several months and prepare ourselves for a long struggle which might possibly last several more months, our mass meetings will be reduced to once a week beginning the first week in June. This meeting will be held each Monday at 7:00 P.M., and the program committee shall be urged to limit the program to one hour and a half. If necessary situations arise special mass meetings will be called.

2. In order to valuably utilize the present relaxed phase of the bus situation and capitalize on the prevailing enthusiasm and amazing togetherness of the people, a strong emphasis shall be placed on increasing our political power through voting and increasing our economic power through the establishment of a bank. The committee on registration and voting shall seek to implement its program immediately. This committee shall meet weekly to discuss methods, findings and results. The Montgomery Improvement Association shall provide every avenue necessary to make the work of this committee successful. The Banking Committee shall meet immediately and make application for a charter through the Federal Home Loan Bank in Greensboro, North Carolina. If the