TAINLY UNJUSTIFIABLE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL TO BE ORDERED AROUND VARIOUS STATIONS AND THEN CONFRONT A DENIAL OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEIR CHILDREN ON THE BASES. I STRONGLY IMPLORE YOU AND THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE INTEGRATION OF SCHOOLS AT REDSTONE CENTER. A RETREAT AT THIS POINT WOULD ONLY CONFIRM STATE OFFICIALS IN THEIR UNDEMOCRATIC DEFiance OF THE LAW AND MAKE THEM MORE DETERMINED IN THEIR RESISTANCE. IT WILL ALSO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THOSE MODERATE WHITES IN THE SOUTH WHO ARE WILLING TO JOIN WITH NEGRO LEADERS IN WORKING TOWARD PEACEFUL COMPLIANCE WITH THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION OUTLAWING SEGREGATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., PRESIDENT
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Draft, Resignation from Dexter Avenue Baptist Church

[29 November 1959]
[Montgomery, Ala.]

King announced his resignation following Sunday services at Dexter and may have used this handwritten draft to frame his remarks. According to a news account, after King spoke three elderly women stood up in protest and looked about "to see if others would join them." Twelve parishioners eventually rose to demonstrate. One man explained: "We weren't just going to give him up without some kind of a fight. But we were not against him, we just wanted to show our regret."

A little more than five years ago I accepted the pastorate of this Church. We started out at that moment on a great and creative spiritual venture. You responded to my program with a cooperative spirit that could hardly be duplicated anywhere. At that time my only desire was to serve the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church to the best of my ability. Little did I know when I came to Dexter that in a few months a movement would commence in Montgomery that would change the course of my life forever. But history always preserves for itself unpredictable...
qualities and it reserves for itself elements of creative. Unknowingly and unexpectedly, I was catapulted into the leadership of a movement whose Montgomery movement. At points I was unprepared for the symbolic role that history had thrust upon me. Everything happened so quickly and spontaneously that I had no time to think through the implications of such leadership. At points I was unprepared for the symbolic role that history had thrust upon me. But there was no way out. I, like everything in Montgomery, was pulled into the mainstream by the rolling tide of historical necessity.

As a result of my leadership in the Montgomery movement my duties and activities tripled. A multiplicity of new responsibilities poured in upon me in almost staggering torrents. So I ended up in the futile attempting to be four or five men in one.

One would have expected that many of these responsibilities would have tapered off after the boycott. But now three years after the termination of the bus struggle the same situation stands. At points the demands have increased.