

Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr.

234 SUNSET AVENUE, NORTHWEST
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

July 26, 1972

Rev. Andrew L. Johnson, Chaplain
Tuskegee Institute
Tuskegee, Alabama 36088

Dear Rev. Johnson:

Your "depressed and wounded heart" touches me, and I wish it were possible to heal it by writing you that I will come to Tuskegee without putting a strain on your budget. But unfortunately, I am simply not free to do this, even though I know that I would enjoy speaking again at Tuskegee and having the opportunity to fellowship with your students and faculty.

I can only hope that you do indeed understand the magnitude of the money-raising task which confronts us as we try to move forward with the work of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. We are committed to raising several millions of dollars; and in order to do this, I must use my time and energy during the next several years as wisely and as carefully as I possibly can. Since I am President of the Center, the Board of Directors has asked me to assume a major responsibility in the fund-raising endeavor. With four children, and many additional commitments of a prior nature to meet, things get pretty hectic!

Thank you for your kind words regarding my television interview at the Democratic Convention, and for your blessings, Agape, and Shalom. It would be nice if monetary considerations were entirely absent from decisions about the use of one's time in this life, but it seems that I cannot enjoy that luxury. Again, I am sorry and hope that you will secure a speaker who will challenge and inspire your students to work courageously for the goals of peace, brotherhood, and justice-- goals which I believe the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center will advance in a very significant way, not only in our nation but in the world.

Sincerely yours,

Coretta Scott King/ft

Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr.

CSK:ft

Dictated by Mrs. King and signed in her absence