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LILLIAN BROWN
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Dr. Homer Durham
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona

Dear Dr. Durham:

We have received confirmation that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be in Phoenix on May 27. This will be his first visit to Phoenix and we anticipate approximately 10,000 people.

The local chapter of the NAACP is the sponsor of this project and will receive 35% of the net proceeds. This money will be used to sponsor voter registrations, make a detailed survey of the educational needs of the Negro community, and to see what we can do to give self-help to the Negro community in the way of better housing and better preparation for securing employment.

We are soliciting the full cooperation of the Sociology Department of Arizona State University in a Phoenix Peace Corp operation. We would like to ask you to serve on our Steering Committee, which will be made up of approximately 12 of our leaders. We have invited Mr. Henry R. Luce to be the Program Chairman and to introduce Dr. King.

The Selection Committee is headed by Dr. Kermit Long of the Central Methodist Church and Rabbi Albert Plotkin of the Temple Beth Israel.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lincoln J. Ragsdale
Lincoln J. Ragsdale
President
at



Handwritten notes:
Time? and
Place
8 pm
Montgomery Stadium

Durham - Com
Misc
Martin Luther King



Valley Life Insurance Company

May 14, 1964

COMPANY

Mr. Lincoln J. Ragsdale, President
Valley Life Insurance Company
1140 East Washington
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Mr. Ragsdale:
Arizona State University

I was sorry to learn recently that your plan to present Dr. Martin Luther King at Montgomery Stadium either May 27 or June 3 had to be rearranged. In the meantime, I understand that our people have been in touch with you with respect to use of Goodwin or Sun Devil Stadium.

I note that you have approached the Sociology Department at Arizona State University and that Mr. Henry R. Luce, Dr. Kermit Long, Rabbi Albert Plotkin and others are working with you and the local chapter of the NAACP in arranging the visit.

Our ASU Concert Choir will appear at the New York World's Fair the week of June 3, and I am not certain that I shall be in the Valley. If I am, I am obligated to attend a wedding at 8:00 p.m. of some very dear friends in Tempe. However, if I can be of any help on the Steering Committee with the others named, please know of my willingness to do so any way possible.

Sincerely yours,

G. Homer Durham
President

GHD:jj

Sincerely,

Lincoln J. Ragsdale
President





NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

MARICOPA COUNTY BRANCH

1923 East Broadway Mailing: P. O. Box 8043

PHOENIX 40, ARIZONA

Phone BR 6-0730
Phone BR 6-2582

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May 21, 1964

Dr. G. Homer Durham,
Arizona State University
Tempe,
Arizona.

My dear Dr. Durham:

I was delighted to learn from Bob Choate that you have agreed to introduce the Rev. Martin Luther King at Goodwin Stadium on the evening of June 3.

I am enclosing a biographical sketch of Dr. King for your use. If there is any more material you need, do not hesitate to call me at 252-5296.

We are asking the platform guests to assemble at the stadium by eight o'clock.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth R. McGregor

Mrs. Ruth R. McGregor
Coordinator Martin Luther King Committee
212 Greater Arizona Savings and Loan Bldg.



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

1. PLACE and DATE OF BIRTH: Atlanta, Georgia, January 15, 1929
2. FAMILY: Son of Dr. and Mrs. Martin Luther King, Sr. Dr. King, Sr. is Co-Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia
3. MARITAL STATUS: Married to Coretta Scott King
4. CHILDREN: Four children: Yolande Denise, Martin Luther, III, Dexter Scott and Bernice Albertine
5. EDUCATION: Public schools of Atlanta, A. B., Morehouse College, 1948, B. D., Crozer Theological Seminary, (Chester, Pa.) 1951 Studied at University of Pennsylvania, 1950-51, Studied at Harvard University, 1952-53, Ph. D., Boston University, 1955 in the field of Systematic Theology. (Thesis: "A Comparison of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman.")
6. HONORARY DEGREES Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.), Morehouse College, 1957.
Doctor of Divinity (D.D.), Chicago, Theological Seminary of the Federated Faculties of the University of Chicago, 1957
Doctor of Laws (L.L.D.) Morgan State College, 1958
Doctor of Humanities, (L.H.D.) Central State College, 1958
Doctor of Divinity (D.D.), Boston University, 1959.
Doctor of Laws, Howard University (LL.D.), 1957
Doctor of Laws, Lincoln University (LL.D.), 1961
Doctor of Laws, University of Bridgeport (LL.D.), 1961
Doctor of Civil Laws, Bard College, 1962
Doctor of Letters, Keuka College, 1963
7. PRESENT POSITIONS: Co-Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.
President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Atlanta, Ga.
President-Emeritus, The Montgomery Improvement Association, Inc. (The organization which guided and directed the bus protest in Montgomery, Alabama.)

8. RECOGNITION:

In 1957 Gallup Poll revealed that he was one of the most admired religious leaders in the world. In 1957 Time Magazine selected him as one of the ten most outstanding personalities of the year. He is listed in Who's Who in America. He has received more than 125 citation awards for his work in civil rights. In a poll conducted by Link Magazine of New Delhi, India, he ranked as one of the sixteen world leaders who had contributed most to the advancement of freedom during 1959.

In 1963 Time Magazine selected him as its 37th Man of the Year, stating that he had become "The unchallenged voice of the Negro people and the disquieting conscience of the white."

9. PUBLICATIONS:

Author of Stride Toward Freedom, Harper & Brothers, 1958. (This book received the Ainsfield-Wolf Award as the best book in race relations in 1958.)

Author of The Measure of a Man, the Christian Education Press, 1959.

Author of Strength To Love, Harper & Row, 1963. (He has written articles in several theological, socialological and historical journals.) A biography of Dr. King entitled, Crusader Without Violence by Lawrence D. Reddick, traces his life story from birth in Atlanta through his leadership in the Montgomery Movement and the civil rights struggle. It is also published by Harper & Row.

10. TRAVEL:

He has travelled extensively in Europe, Asia, South America and Africa. In 1957, at the invitation of the Prime Minister he attended the independence celebration of Ghana, West Africa. He has lectured in more than one hundred & fifty colleges and universities in the United States.

June 3

Durham



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE MARICOPA COUNTY BRANCH

1923 East Broadway Mailing: P. O. Box 8043
PHOENIX 40, ARIZONA

May 29, 1964

Dr. G. Homer Durham, President
Arizona State University
Tempe. Ariz.

My dear Dr. Durham:

Just a note to ask you to be at Goodwin Stadium
at 7:45 the evening of the Martin Luther King
meeting, June 3.

The platform will be at the south end of the
stadium.

Thanking you, I am

Yours sincerely,

Ruth R. McGregor
Co-ordinator

- 6-0730
- 6-2582
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- Mitchell
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- Public Relations

*Will be there @ 7:45
for information on
Dr. King*

252-5296

*Left message
for Mrs. McGregor
6/1/64
JWB*



Pres. of Board of Regents - 70 min.

ARIZONA STATE
UNIVERSITY

TEMPE, ARIZONA

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

[Handwritten signature]

June 4, 1964

President Homer Durham
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona

Dear Mr. President,

May I commend you sir, for your willingness to stand up and
be counted as one supporting human rights. As one of your faculty
members I'd like to express that it gave me pleasure and courage
to see you take part in last evenings meeting.

Sincerely,

Glenn Chronister

Glenn Chronister
Assoc-Prof Educ.



June 4, 1964

Dear President Durham -

Too often, either out of concern for their 'images' or for political considerations, our universities shy away from the sorts of controversy that help provoke intellectual discussion. I like to think that as inheritors of the tradition of Socrates, we have an obligation to provide opportunities, both in & out of lecture rooms, for the presentation of unpopular views. Accordingly, I was not only extremely pleased that the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke on campus last evening, but especially that you saw fit to introduce him. I wish simply to express my personal appreciation to you both for the fact that you spoke as well as for the positive terms in which you cast your introductory remarks.

Sincerely,

Henry M. Bracken



Board of Regents - general

President John G. Babbitt

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June 4, 1964

June 4, 1964

President John G. Babbitt
Board of Regents
P. O. Box 608
Flagstaff, Arizona

Dear President Babbitt:

In order that there may be no misunderstanding, I am providing you and the members of the Board of Regents with the correct information concerning the appearance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Goodwin Stadium, Wednesday evening, June 3, 1964. This information may be helpful in the event you receive any calls or comments with respect to his visit to Arizona.

Goodwin Stadium was rented on behalf of the Maricopa County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People through Rev. George Brooks and Mr. Lincoln Ragsdale of Phoenix. University halls, Sun Devil Stadium and Goodwin Stadium are regularly made available to Arizona taxpayers and citizen groups. For example, Sun Devil Stadium was recently rented to the Billy Graham Crusade.

A group of Phoenix clergymen and other citizens also collaborated with the Maricopa County Chapter of the NAACP in arranging for Dr. King's appearance.

I personally attended the event Wednesday evening in Goodwin Stadium at the invitation of Mr. Ragsdale. Rev. George Brooks was master of ceremonies. In response to the invitation from the sponsoring organization and some prominent Phoenix citizens, I introduced Dr. King to the audience immediately prior to his address.

The entire meeting was orderly; it was preceded by a great deal of singing by a colored choir from the Assembly of God church in Phoenix. During the collection, the choir from the Unitarian Church of Phoenix rendered the music. The meeting began with an invocation, followed by the national anthem, the pledge of allegiance, and the introduction of the platform guests by the master of ceremonies, Reverend Brooks.

Dr. King's address was presented in substantial, intellectual terms, befitting his scholarship and education (he holds the Ph.D. from Boston University, together with several honorary degrees), emphasized from time to time by the homiletics of a minister of the gospel of the Baptist faith, which he is.

President John G. Babbitt

- 2 -

June 4, 1964

MARICOPA COUNTY BRANCH

Those present were approximately equally divided among the white and colored races and appeared to be largely citizens from the Phoenix metropolitan area. As you know, the University is not in session, and students have not been resident on the campus since Commencement week. The resort to rent Goodwin Stadium was made when Dr. King's visit, planned earlier and scheduled for Montgomery Stadium, conflicted with the commencement exercises at Phoenix College, also held June 3. The arrangements for the rental were conducted in normal channels through the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

In retrospect, I feel that those present had an opportunity to hear one of the most remarkable living Americans (he was Time magazine's "Man of the Year" for 1963); that new appreciation for higher education in Arizona was experienced appreciatively by a large body of taxpayers and citizens; and that the address itself contributed to the dignity and meaning of the University, even though the meeting itself was not conducted under University auspices.

Goodwin Stadium on the evening of June 3.

I am enclosing a biographical sketch for your use. If there is any more material you need, do not hesitate to call me at 254-6996.

Sincerely yours,

We are asking the platform guests to assemble at the stadium by eight o'clock.

G. Homer Durham
President

Yours sincerely,

Paul R. McGregor

Mrs. Paul R. McGregor
Coordinator Martin Luther King Committee
212 Greater Arizona Savings and Loan Bldg.

GHD:jj

cc: Members of the Board of Regents

Pres. Garvill
Pres. Halcup



June 5, 1964

Professor Harry M. Bracken
Department of Philosophy
Campus

Dear Professor Bracken:

Thank you for your generous note of June 4, 1964.

Unless the University is engaged in examining and dissecting unpopular views, we will reflect only the popular and, in so doing, can function only as mirror and not as lamp to increase and shed light.

Everyone who understands a university, of course, appreciates this fact. It is a constant, continuous task, however, to make the same understandable and appreciated. I do not despair despite the pessimism of such as G. E. G. Catlin, with whom I once enjoyed extensive discussions on this subject. In many respects, I found Catlin more optimistic on this score than many thoughtful men who have devoted much of their lives to the problems and role of the intellectual in the social order.

Sincerely yours,

G. Homer Durham
President

GHD:jj



Bo of Regents - 9am

BOARD OF REGENTS
OF THE
UNIVERSITIES AND STATE COLLEGE OF ARIZONA

P. O. Box 608
Flagstaff, Arizona
June 8, 1964

Dr. G. Homer Durham
President, Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona

Dear Homer:

Thanks for your letter of June 4 with regard to the appearance of Dr. Martin Luther King in Goodwin Stadium.

I agree with you completely that it is a service to the community to provide our facilities for such events. Whether or not we agree completely with all that any of the speakers who use these facilities say, in my opinion, is beside the point as long as they are not subversive or improper in their utterances.

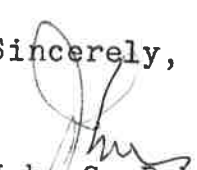
Mr. William Kendall, in his letter with regard to TV Station KAET, confirms what I have heard a number of times recently. The station certainly seems to be well received.

I also wish to thank you very sincerely for your kind letter with regard to the Regents.

Here's wishing the baseball team good luck in Omaha!

With kindest regards -

Sincerely,


John G. Babbitt
President

C -



Board of Regents - Memorandum



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85721

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 9, 1964

Dear Homer:

I have the copy of your letter of June 4 to President Babbitt of the Board of Regents. It seems that you have given an excellent statement of the reasons for Martin Luther King appearing at Goodwin Stadium.

Incidentally, he has appeared here at the University of Arizona Auditorium on two different occasions, one several years ago, and another time about two years ago. In both instances it was under the auspices of the Sunday Evening Forum which, in effect, the University of Arizona co-sponsors by making the facilities available to the Forum.

It would seem somewhat odd that very many people would object to King's appearance. He handles himself extremely well. He seems to try to appeal to the intellect rather than the emotions of people. I hope that there are no repercussions that consume very much of your time.

Cordially,


Richard A. Harvill

President G. Homer Durham
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona

RAH:erm

Durham - Benjamin Brooks 3



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE MARICOPA COUNTY BRANCH

1923 East Broadway Mailing: P. O. Box 8043
PHOENIX 40, ARIZONA



June 18, 1964

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- LAWRENCE MITCHELL**
Director Washington Bureau
- EDDY LEE MOON**
Director, Public Relations

Dr. G. Homer Durham
Arizona State University
Tempe.
Ariz.

My dear President Durham:

On my own behalf and that of the NAACP I would like to express our thanks for the part you played in the Martin Luther King meeting.

We felt that it was a great success and that success was in no small part due to your cooperation and that of your staff at the University.

Yours sincerely,

G. Benjamin Brooks

G. Benjamin Brooks



Valley Life INSURANCE

1140 EAST WASHINGTON • PHOENIX, ARIZONA • TEL. 254-5323

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MEDICAL DIRECTOR

JAMES R. JACKSON
AGENCY DIRECTOR

LILLIAN BROWN
REGISTRAR

June 19, 1964

G. Homer Durham, President
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona

Dear Dr. Durham:

On behalf of NAACP, I wish to further extend our gratitude to you for your cooperation in making Dr. King's visit here a tremendous success.

We shall be grateful for your continued support in the effort to work out a non-violent solution to the crisis of segregation.

Sincerely,



Lincoln J. Ragsdale

LJR:mb

