

COPY

Commission

KING, JR., REV. MARTIN LUTHER

C.R.

LLF407 (05)AA619
A LLY729 LL 253 LL 233 NL PD FAX ATLANTA GA 3
SEN EDWARD W BROOKE
SENATE OFFICE N.D.B. WASHCO

April 1, 1968

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Atlanta
Georgia

Dear Martin:

Thank you so much for your good and thoughtful telegrams supporting the current civil rights bill and commending the Commission's report.

I am greatly heartened by our success in obtaining Senate approval of the very substantial fair housing bill; many of us are still working to move the legislation through the House. Although the long delay in completing Senate action is regrettable, the determination of those who supported the bill reflected in their willingness to stick it out through many weeks of debate and four hard cloture battles, is a signal victory for the cause.

If we can sustain the performance of the enlightened members of Congress in the months to come, I believe real progress can be made in implementing the grand design of the Commission's report. In the future, as in the past, your inspired work can make an invaluable contribution to that goal.

I look forward to seeing you again soon. Meanwhile, please accept my best wishes for you and your continued success.

Sincerely yours,

Edward W. Brooke

EWB:mdr

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LLF407 (06)AA649

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1968 MAR 4 PM 11 18

SEN EDWARD W BROOKE

SENATE OFFICE BLDG WASHDC

RECD MAR 5 1968

YOU, AS A MEMBER OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON CIVIL DISORDERS, DESERVE THE GRATITUDE OF THE NATION BECAUSE YOU HAD BOTH THE WISDOM TO PERCEIVE THE TRUTH AND THE COURAGE TO STATE IT. THE COMMISSION'S FINDINGS THAT AMERICA IS A RACIST SOCIETY AND THAT WHITE RACISM IS THE ROOT CAUSE OF TODAY'S URBAN DISORDERS IS AN IMPORTANT CONFESSION OF A HARSH TRUTH. MY ONLY HOPE NOW IS THAT WHITE AMERICA AND OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL HEED YOUR WARNINGS AND IMPLEMENT YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS. BY IGNORING THEM WE WILL SINK INEVITABLY INTO A NIGHTMARISH RACIAL DOOMSDAY. GOD GRANT THAT YOUR EXCELLENT REPORT WILL EDUCATE THE NATION AND LEAD TO ACTION BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

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SENATOR EDWARD W BROOKE

WA SHDC

THE TIME HAS COME FOR ALL MEN TO HAVE ACCESS TO ALL HOUSING AND WE URGE THE MEMBERS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY TO SUPPORT THE OPEN HOUSING BILL AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MEASURE OF THE SENATE IN THE INTEREST OF FREEDOM AND PEACE. THE REASON BEHIND THE DISORDERS IN OUR CITIES IS THE TERRIBLE CONDITION UNDER WHICH NEGROES LIVE. I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT THE PASSAGE OF A GOOD FAITH OPEN HOUSING BILL WILL RESTORE HOPE TO MANY IN THE NEGRO COMMUNITY WHO HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS NO WAY OUT OF THEIR DILEMMA

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.