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Burke Marshall Papers
Box 8 Martin Luther King
Folder King
Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Martin Luther King Jr., *President*

Wyatt Tee Walker, *Executive Director*

July 3, 1963

Mr. Burke Marshall
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Dr. King asked me to send you the enclosed copy of
a letter which he has just sent to Mr. Jack O'Dell.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) D. McDonald
Secretary

enc

File

July 3, 1963

Mr. Jack H. O'Dell
488 St. Nicholas Avenue
Apartment 5-S
New York, New York

Dear Jack:

Several months ago you submitted your resignation pending an investigation of your alleged affiliation with the Communist party, as was suggested by an article to this effect in the Birmingham and New Orleans newspapers. We accepted this temporary resignation because of SCLC's firm policy that no Communist nor Communist sympathizer can be on our staff or in our membership. We felt that it was imperative to conduct an immediate investigation. As you know, we conducted what we felt to be a thorough inquiry into these charges and were unable to discover any present connections with the Communist party on your part.

The situation in our country is such, however, that any allusion to the left brings forth an emotional response which would seem to indicate that SCLC and the Southern Freedom Movement are Communist inspired. In these critical times we cannot afford to risk any such impressions. We, therefore, have decided in our Administrative Committee, that we should request you to make your temporary resignation permanent.

We certainly appreciate the years of unselfish service which you have put into our New York Office, and regret the necessity of your departure. Certainly, yours is a significant sacrifice commensurate with the sufferings in jail and through loss of jobs under racist intimidation. We all pray for the day when our nation may be truly the land of the free.

Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Mr. O'Dell
July 3, 1963
Page Two

A. M. Walker, Executive Director

May God bless you and continue to inspire you in the service of your fellowman.

Sincerely yours,

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Km

Mr. King asked me to send you the enclosed copy of a letter which he has just sent to Mr. O'Dell.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss D. McDonald)

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