

Intervention helped Kennedy says King

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RICHMOND

Dr. Martin Luther King said Friday that he has had positive indication that many voters have been influenced to swing their support to Kennedy because of the candidate's interest in helping effect King's release from jail.

In addition to innumerable letters Dr. King said that, particularly in Atlanta, voters had told him that they planned to express their appreciation to Sen. Kennedy at the polls.

He said that he had heard similar reaction among voters in Chicago and Detroit.

DR. KING refused to endorse either Kennedy or Nixon

on personally. But says he feels that either one will do better than Eisenhower with a more vigorous and forthright administration toward implementing the Supreme Court Decision.

There is some question about whether Dr. King will be permitted to vote.

The probate Judge's office in Montgomery, Ala. says he is ineligible for absentee voting there because his poll taxes have been unpaid since 1958.

Dr. King maintains that he has a cancelled check to show he paid the 1959 poll taxes which should qualify him to vote in this election.

He admits that he may not have paid the 1960 poll taxes—the deadline being last

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February at about the time he moved to Atlanta.

He said with a smile "the state of Alabama and I have had frequent disputes. I don't know whether I'll win this one or not."

Dr. King was in Richmond to address the annual meeting of the Virginia Teachers Association.

EARLIER IN THE week, Dr. King issued a formal statement relative to the Kennedy incident. He explained that his position as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference made it unethical for him to endorse any candidate. He added:

"But for fear of being considered an ingrate, I want to make it palpably clear that I am deeply grateful to Senator Kennedy for the genuine concern he expressed in my arrest.

"When reactionary forces sought to crush our movement for desegregation by methods so unjust and unwise that millions were inflamed with indignation, Senator Kennedy exhibited moral courage of a high order.

"I hope that this example of Senator Kennedy's courage will be a lesson deeply learned and consistently applied by all as we move forward in non-violent but resolute spirit to achieve rapidly proper standards of humanity and justice..."

Dr. King also expressed appreciation to Atlanta's Mayor Hartsfield for "constructive leadership throughout this whole struggle. I have always argued that the silent multitude of the South needed support and encouragement available only from its major leadership to enable them to give open expression to their belief."

IN NEW YORK, Robert Kennedy, campaign manager for his brother, said that Sen. Kennedy would intervene again if it ever became necessary. On a nationwide television program, he said: "Sen. Kennedy felt very strongly in connection with this matter. Here is Martin Luther King, who had been sentenced for four months and had been taken away in handcuffs for a traffic violation.

"I think the people of Georgia — whether they are white or colored — must feel the sentence hardly befitted the crime. I think Sen. Kennedy did — and the rest of us did — what we thought was right under the circumstances.

"And we would do it again."

VICE PRESIDENT Richard M. Nixon never spoke publicly concerning Dr. King's arrest although Georgia Republicans requested that he do so.

It was hinted last week in New York that Jackie Robinson, who dropped his column in a daily newspaper in order to campaign for Nixon, was "cooling" toward the Republican nominee because of his snub of Dr. King.

Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, professor at the City College of New York, had been joined with Jackie in supporting Nixon. He said last week, however:

"I don't think or see how it is now possible for any colored person to support Mr. Nixon."

Dr. Clark and other New Yorkers have sent Jackie Robinson telegrams urging him to "come home" from his midwestern tour supporting Nixon.

IN WASHINGTON, a group of "Republican and independent" ministers and laymen charged that Dr. King indulged in Democratic partisan politics in the jailing case.

The "special committee" issued a statement attacking both the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the NAACP. The Rev. O. M. Hoover of Cleveland, Ohio was chairman of the group.

Perry W. Howard, a member of the committee, said "Martin Luther King Jr. is an example of hypocrisy."

Other committee members were: AME Bishops E. C. Hatcher of Cleveland and David A. Sims, Philadelphia; the Rev. L. K. Jackson, Gary, Ind.; Dr. Robert W. Mance, treasurer of the AME Church; the Rev. Richard Hilderbrand, Brooklyn; Dr. George Simms, Cleveland; Dr. Kenneth Clement, Cleveland physician; ; Chester K. Gillespie, Cleveland lawyer and William C. Hueston, Elks' Grand Secretary.