

JULY · 1906

you when in Boston. At any rate I could not decide to come there and speak to a miscellaneous audience, but if the representative element, to which you referred cared to give a dinner, making the price so low that the masses could attend I should consider the matter.

I wish to repeat so far as my own interests are concerned these people have done me all the harm they possibly can and their opposition and actions are of no importance, but their position and actions are of vital interest to the people of Boston. Very truly yours,

[Booker T. Washington]

TLC Con. 810 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ William L. Reed (1866–1943) held several public offices in Boston. In 1896 he was the first black man elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, a post he held for two terms. From 1898 to 1900 he was deputy collector of internal revenue, and from 1900 to 1902 he was deputy tax collector for Boston. For twenty-two years, beginning in 1902, Reed was a clerk and messenger in the executive department of the Massachusetts State House. In 1924 Governor Channing Cox appointed Reed to the position of executive secretary of the governor's council.

² Reed reported to BTW harsh criticisms of him by other blacks at a Faneuil Hall meeting on June 20. He urged BTW to come to Boston and answer "such wild, irresponsible utterances as we have to hear from day to day, now." (June 21, 1906, Con. 810, BTW Papers, DLC.)

Emmett Jay Scott to Richard W. Thompson

[Tuskegee, Ala.] July 2, 1906

Dear Mr. Thompson: The Afro-American Council was held in Louisville, Ky., as you may recall, the latter part of June and the first of July, three years ago. Trotter and his crowd were present and kicked up their usual furore. I got up for one of the evening papers, I do not recall which, a column of interviews with prominent colored men who were present at the meeting as to what they thought of Trotter and his gang; among others Morris joined in the general condemnation.

I am wondering if it will be possible for you to see the files of the evening papers for July 1, 2 or 3 and locate these interviews