

# Mourning Rev. King Talks Of His 'Broken Old Heart'

Atlanta

Standing at the pulpit of his church and before the coffin of his wife, Dr. Martin Luther King Sr. said of the man who shot her, "Let him come on back, he can't do anything but kill this broken old heart."

The grief-stricken minister spoke to some 1300 mourners yesterday at funeral services for Mrs. King.

Mrs. King, 70, and a church deacon, Edward Boykin, 69, were slain by a gunman in the midst of church services last Sunday.

FBI agents and police are checking out reports that the man charged with the double murder, Marcus Wayne Chenault, 23, of Dayton, Ohio, was involved in a conspiracy directed at Black ministers and civil rights leaders.

At services in the same church in which his wife was killed, the Rev. Mr. King, 74, leaned heavily on the pulpit, flanked by his grandson Martin III, and a son-in-law.

"She was more than my

wife, she was my heart," he said, adding in a faltering voice: "Every day and every night I will miss "Bunch."

King often referred to his wife, Alberta, as "Bunch," short for "Honeybunch."

Grasping the hand of Martin, 17, the senior King then led the audience in singing "We Shall Overcome"—the anthem that his son Martin Luther King Jr. and his followers sang when the civil rights movement was at its height in the South. The song brought tears to many mourners, some of whom linked arms and swayed with the music.

About 3500 persons gathered outside the red-brick Ebenezer Baptist Church in downtown Atlanta under a sweltering sun to hear the eulogies and hymns sung during the 2½-hour service.

The outpouring of tribute ranged from grief to humor, and at times was joyous. Throughout, Mrs. King was recalled as a strong, warm woman with a sense of humor.

"She gave to mankind a

son who was a world-renowned leader of peace and non-violence," said the Rev. L. V. Booth, pastor of Zion Baptist church in Cincinnati. Dr. King was killed by an assassin's bullet in Memphis in the spring of 1968.

Those who attended yesterday's services were escorted in and out of the church under heavy security.

Among the notables present at yesterday's service were Mrs. Gerald Ford, wife of the vice president; Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter; presidential assistant Stanley Scott; representing President Nixon; the Rev. Jesse Jackson of Operation PUSH; Vernon Jordan, director of the Urban League, comedians Flip Wilson, Dick Gregory and Moms Mabley.

Several black congressmen and mayors who were elected through black voting rights gained in the civil rights struggle were also present.

Associated Press