

Montgomery, Alabama

FBI File Number 100-135-61 Racial Situation, Alabama.

Agitation in the United States

PRACON - 4410610

W.H.W.

Three Lost Lives In '49 Lynchings, Says Tuskegee

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 30 (AP). Three persons, all Negroes, forfeited their lives to lynch mobs in the United States this year, Tuskegee Institute said today.

Two were in Georgia, one in Mississippi. Georgia was the scene of the two lynchings recorded by the famed Negro college in 1948, too. One victim was a Negro, the other a white man.

27 Attempts Listed

Seventeen other persons, including the crazed mass killer Howard Unruh, were marked for mob murder this year, the report said, but law enforcement officers saved 16 of them. One Negro got away by jumping in a river.

Ten of the attempted lynchings listed by Tuskegee president F. D. Patterson were in Southern States, four in the North.

Unruh, who shot 13 persons to death and wounded three others at Camden, N. J., on Sept. 6, was listed as an intended lynch victim, Patterson said, because an angry, threatening crowd surged toward him after his capture but failed to break through a police line. Unruh was later judged insane.

Cafe Owner Escaped

Mob violence was averted at Winston-Salem, N. C., too, the Tuskegee report said, when police rescued a white cafe owner, O. W. Werst, from a mob of 800 Negroes. Werst was charged with shooting one of a group of Negroes who mistook his place for a dance hall.

New York with three lynching attempts—involving four white men and a Negro—had more than any other state, the report continued. Georgia and North Carolina had two apiece and Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, South Carolina and Tennessee one each.

Tolson ✓
 Ladd ✓
 Nichols ✓
 Rosen ✓
 Tracy ✓
 Harbo ✓
 Mohr ✓
 Tele. Room ✓
 Nease ✓

[Redacted]

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY [Signature]

N/100-135-61-1

NOT RECORDED

42 JAN 18 '95

INDEXED - 114

EX-87

Page 6
 Times-Herald 6
 Wash. Post
 Wash. News
 Wash. Star
 N.Y. Mirror

Date: JUL 3 1949

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: February 28, 1950

FROM : *KW* SAC, Mobile

SUBJECT: *K* G. D. BORDEN;
A PROPHECY TO THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD

R ORACON

There is enclosed herewith for the attention of the Central Research Desk a pamphlet entitled "A Prophecy to the Nations of the World" by G. D. BORDEN. This pamphlet was turned over to this office by [redacted] who advised that the booklet had recently been left by unknown persons on the doorsteps of his home, [redacted]

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It is noted that the pamphlet was copyrighted in 1939. The author refers to himself as a prophet commanded to give a message to the people urging change of attitude toward the negro race.

The Mobile Office indices contain no reference to this pamphlet nor to the author. It is noted that the author states that he was born in Mobile County, Alabama and was 62 years of age.

This pamphlet is being forwarded as a matter of information and need not be returned.

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[redacted] erz
105-0

Enclosure (1)

ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILE

File

EX-69

R2154

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY [signature]

INDEXED - 36

RECORDED - 36

EX - 60

100-135-61-

MAR 2 1950

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61 MAR 10 1950

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

_____ Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

- For your information: *at this location in the file, the Bureau maintains a 37 page booklet by H. D. Borden entitled "A Prophecy to the Nations of the World." Reproduction of this booklet is prohibited by copyright.*
- The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-135-61-2 enclosure

XXXXXX
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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Boardman
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Mason
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Parsons
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Holloman
- Miss Gandy

FBI MOBILE 12/7/55

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

DIRECTOR, FBI

AIR-TEL (AIR MAIL)

RACIAL MATTERS
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

As of possible interest to the Bureau, I am attaching hereto articles appearing in the Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, captioned "EXTRA POLICE SET FOR PATROL WORK IN TROLLEY BOYCOTT," and "5,000 AT MEETING OUTLINE BOYCOTT; BULLET CLIPS BUS," under dates of 12/5 and 6, 1955 respectively.

This boycott, according to newspaper items, results from the arrest of ROSA PARKS, a seamstress for a downtown store in Montgomery who refused to accept an assigned seat in the Negro section on a Montgomery City Lines bus Thursday, 12/1/55.

This matter will be followed discreetly at Montgomery and any additional information of interest will be called to the Bureau's attention.

HALLFORD

Encl. (2) ENCL

44-00-A
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(5)

Mr. Belmont

CC: MR. BELMONT
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY 306/...

Lab to Dept.
12-14-55
WJW

RECORDED - 78

INDEXED - 78

EX-107

100-135-61-3

24 DEC 20 1955

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Racon - Mobile

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5-11-55

★ Extra Police Set For Patrol Work In Trolley Boycott

- Article

By JOE AZBELL
Advertiser City Editor

Negro "goon squads" reportedly have been organized here to intimidate Negroes who ride Montgomery City Line buses today in violation of a Negro boycott of the bus line, according to a top city official.

And city policemen have been ordered to be at main bus stops or patrol main bus stop areas to check attempts at violence by the reported "goon squads."

Police Commissioner Clyde C. Sellers said yesterday that several Negroes had been "threatened with physical violence" if they ride city buses today.

RESULT OF DISTURBANCE

The proposed Negro boycott of the bus lines grew out of the arrest of Rosa Parks, a seamstress for a downtown store, who refused to accept an assigned seat in the Negro section on a Montgomery City Lines bus Thursday. The boycott was called in protest of the arrest.

When she took a seat in a white section and refused to move to the Negro area, she was arrested by bus driver J. F. Blake, 27 N. Lewis St. under special police powers granted under the city code. Policemen who arrived later confirmed Blake's charge that the woman was seated in the white section and refused to move to the rear of the bus.

Saturday thousands of circulars were distributed urging Negroes not to ride the city buses today in protest of the arrest.

The Parks woman will be heard in Recorder's Court at 9 a. m. today on a charge of violating city segregation laws by refusing to accept a seat assigned to her on the bus. Her attorney, Fred Gray, a Negro, said yesterday he intends to enter a plea of innocence.

MASS MEETING SET

Meanwhile, a top secret mass meeting of Negroes has been called for 7.30 tonight at the Holt Street Baptist Church for what circulars described as "further instructions" in the "economic reprisal" campaign against the city bus lines.

The purpose of the "further instructions" meeting and what could come out of it has been kept under lock and key but it was understood Negro leaders, long prominent in voters campaigns, called the meeting.

None of the Negro leaders in the community would make any statement about the top secret meeting or who was leading the "boycott" campaign.

The Rev. A. W. Wilson, pastor

MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER
Montgomery, Alabama
December 5, 1955

RE: RACIAL MATTERS
Mobile File:
Bureau File:

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DATE 3/24/88 BY [signature]

100-135-61-3

ENCLOSURE

of the Hot Street Baptist Church, said he would not disclose "under any circumstances" the names of the Negroes who asked permission to use the church for the meeting tonight.

Commissioner Sellers said he intends to send the city's four Negro policemen to the meeting tonight. The Rev. Wilson said the meeting is open to the public and that his church doors will not be closed.

Attempts to reach the Parks woman around whom the controversy whirls were unsuccessful yesterday. Attorney Gray said the woman lives at 634 Cleveland Ct., is married, has no children and is in her "late thirties or forties."

The circulars which were distributed Saturday state:

"Another Negro woman has been arrested and thrown into jail because she refused to get up out of her seat on the bus and give it to a white person. It is the second time since the Claudette Colbert case that a Negro has been arrested for the same thing. This must be stopped. Negroes are citizens and have rights.

"Until we do something to stop these arrests, they will continue. The next time it may be you, or you or you. This woman's case will come up Monday. We are, therefore, asking every Negro to stay off the busses on Monday in protest of the arrest and trial. Don't ride the busses to work, to town, to school or anywhere on Monday. You can afford to stay out of school for one day if you have no other way to go except by bus. If you work, take a cab or walk, but please, children and grownups, don't get on a bus at all on Monday. Please stay off the busses Monday."

"I and members of the police department have gotten these reports and I assure anyone who has any idea of using 'goon squad' tactics that they will be arrested and brought to trial," Sellers said.

"I intend to make certain that law and order is maintained today if we have to call out every city policeman and every reserve policeman," he added. "I intend to have policemen at every bus stop and anybody who wants to ride the busses can do so with the police department's assurance they will be protected."

The commissioner said that the police department will deal with the situation today in an "attitude of maintaining peace and enforcing the law."

He said some Negroes had called him about threats of violence they had received if they ride the busses and that he had told them they would have full protection.

The commissioner added the Negro boycott of the busses is a "most serious matter" and that "the police department intends to deal with it as a most serious matter."

It was understood that many Negroes who work for white employers as servants reported Saturday they would not show up for work Monday unless the employer came for them in an automobile or agreed to pay their taxi fare.

In the previous bus segregation case, Claudette Colbert, 15, also was represented by Gray. The young Negro girl was placed under "indefinite probation" by Juvenile Court Judge Wiley Hill Jr.

The boycott of the busses is modelled along the lines of the "economic reprisal" planning of the White Citizens Council which Negroes and white liberals have attacked. The WCC proposes "economic reprisals" against Negroes who attempt to promote integration programs.

*5,000 At Meeting Outline Boycott; Bullet Clips Bus

By JOE AZBELL
Advertiser City Editor

An estimated 5,000 hymn-singing Negroes packed the Holt Street Baptist Church to its outer doors and spilled over into three streets blocking traffic last night as they voted to continue a racial boycott against buses of the Montgomery City Lines Inc.

Meanwhile, J. H. Bagley, manager of the Montgomery City Lines, reported that a bus driven by driver B. S. Johnson, apparently was fired on by a person with a .22 caliber rifle in the Negro Washington Park area.

Bagley said the bullet hit the rear of the bus and Johnson could not determine from where it was fired.

ENFORCE LAW

The bus company manager also reiterated a previous statement that his firm would not violate the law on segregation of bus passengers and that he would continue to require all of his drivers to enforce the law. "If they don't, the drivers can be fined or sentenced," he said.

Meanwhile, police reported an unidentified party threw a large stone and struck the front of a City Lines bus at the intersection of S. Jeff Davis and S. Holt street late yesterday. No personal injury and only slight damage to the bus resulted, officers said.

In a resolution passed at the meeting by the Negroes with a roaring applause, the emotional group voted to ask "all citizens of Montgomery" to refrain from riding buses of the Montgomery City Lines Inc. until the bus transportation situation is cleared up to the "satisfaction of citizens" who ride and patronize them.

-Article

MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER
Montgomery, Alabama
December 6, 1955

RE: RACIAL MATTERS
Mobile File:
Bureau File:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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DATE 3/24/83 BY [signature]

100-135-61-3

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ENCLOSURE

The resolution, among other things, stated that "citizens of Montgomery" have been intimidated, embarrassed and coerced while riding the public conveyances and in view of the humiliation they have endured they agreed that they would refrain from using the buses.

It also declared that a "delegation of citizens" was prepared at all times to sit down with officials of the Montgomery City Lines and develop with them a program that the bus lines' patrons would find satisfactory and equitable.

The resolution stated that "no methods of intimidation" would be used or had been used to keep anyone from riding the buses but it asked that a person's "conscience" be his guide.

FROM PARKS CASE

The continuing boycott grew out of the arrest and conviction of Rosa Parks, 42, 634 Cleveland Ave., Negro seamstress at a department store here, on a segregation violation count.

The conviction of the Negro woman may cause a court test on segregation of Negroes and whites on Montgomery buses, The Advertiser learned yesterday.

The Parks woman and Fred Daniel, 19, 1646 Hall St., arrested yesterday for disorderly conduct, were introduced to the large audience and the audience stood, applauding loud. They each were described as churchgoers and industrious, law abiding citizens.

The Rev. M. L. King, pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, told the crowd that the "tools of justice" must be used to attain the "day of freedom, justice and equality." He urged "unity of Negroes" for "we must stick together and work together if we are to win and we will win in standing up for our rights as Americans."

Other speakers on the program said the idea of the boycott of the buses being anything like the "methods of the White Citizens Council" is "ridiculous" for "what we are doing is legal and constitutional."

"It is not like the Ku Klux Klan in going to our homes and taking men out and lynching them. It is not terrorism but democracy, a protest of Americans, in action," one of the speakers declared.

A collection was taken up at the meeting to finance the campaign of the citizens group.

In the several speeches at the meeting which was conducted along the lines of a religious revival service, other remarks included: "We will not relinquish

one inch in our fight" and "If we are wrong, the Constitution is wrong, the Supreme Court is

(Continued From Page 1)

wrong and our whole foundation of government is wrong."

HELP FINANCE

The resolution passed by the group asked that those "citizens" who live long distances from their jobs and could not ride with other "citizens" ask their employers to finance the trips to and from work. Others who owned cars were asked to form pools to take others to work.

Rosa Parks was fined \$10 and costs in Recorder's Court yesterday for violating a state law requiring racial segregation on city buses.

Thousands of Negroes boycotted city buses yesterday and only about 5 to 10 per cent of the Negroes who normally ride the buses broke the boycott. The boycott reflected an "economic reprisal" in protest of the arrest.

APPEAL DECISION

Fred D. Gray, Negro attorney, told Judge John B. Scott he would appeal the decision of the court to Montgomery Circuit Court. The move apparently was intended as the first step in testing the constitutionality of transportation segregation laws in this Cradle of the Confederacy.

Gray intended to attack the law as unconstitutional but he declined to say specifically. He said that he intended to use "every legal

Signing the \$100 appeal bond for the woman were E. D. Nixon of Montgomery, a former state NAACP president, and Gray.

Gray entered a plea of innocent for his client. The woman did not testify. Assisting Gray was another Negro attorney, Charles Langford.

The entire hearing consumed only about five minutes. City Prosecutor Eugene Loe called bus driver J. F. Blake to tell how Rosa Parks refused to leave a seat in the white section and move to the Negro section in the rear last Thursday night. Blake said he asked the Negro woman and other Negro passengers to move to the rear of the bus but the Parks woman refused to leave her seat.

Blake said there were 22 Negroes and 14 whites seated in the 36-seat bus. He sought to equalize the seating, he said, by asking some of the Negroes to move to the rear.

Loe called Judge Scott to amend the complaint against the Parks woman to make the warrant read a violation of the state law instead of the city ordinance. Gray objected but Judge Scott allowed the amendment.

The state law sets forth as illegal the failure by any person to comply with the assignment or reassignment order of a bus driver to enforce separate facilities for the white and Negro races.

Gray objected that the state law was not a city law and could not pertain to his client. Loe replied the state law covered all transportation.

Passed by the Legislature in 1947, the state statute authorizes bus companies to provide and enforce separate facilities for white and Negro races. Violation is punishable by a maximum fine of \$500.

It was understood that Gray intended to defend my client."

The court hearing was calm and quiet, and at times witnesses were almost inaudible as they spoke.

90 PER CENT BOYCOTT

The steps leading into the north side of the courtroom and the sidewalk, along with the corridors leading into the east entrance of the courtroom, all were jammed with spectators and witnesses.

Meanwhile, Montgomery City Lines Manager J. H. Bagley yesterday afternoon estimated that some 90 per cent of the Negroes were refusing to ride the buses in protest of the hearing.

The boycott was uncovered Friday after thousands of unsigned circulars were reportedly being spread throughout the Negro districts in Montgomery.

Acting upon the orders of Police Commissioner Clyde Sellers that

there was to be no violence yesterday patrolmen arrested a 19-year-old Negro youth who allegedly tried to restrain a Negro woman from getting on one of the morning buses.

Fred Daniel, 19, of 1646 Hall St., was jailed on a charge of disorderly conduct, according to Police Chief G. J. Ruppenthal. Arresting Patrolmen R. M. Hammonds and C. A. Weaver said Daniel grabbed a Negro woman by the arm about 7:15 a.m. at the intersection of Hall and Thurman and pulled her away from a City Lines bus she was attempting to board.

NEGRO TAXI CABS BUSY

—Negro taxi cab operators in the city reportedly told their drivers to charge only 10 cents a head yesterday from the hours 4 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 3 p.m. until 11 p.m. in an effort to make the bus boycott effective.

Several buses seen on downtown streets carried nothing but white passengers from front to rear.

Several thousand Negroes use the buses on a normal day.

Police cars and motorcycles followed the buses periodically to prevent trouble after Sellers said some Negroes reported they were threatened with violence if they rode buses yesterday.

The circulars distributed in Negro residential districts Saturday urging the boycott yesterday in protest to the arrest of Rosa Parks were not signed. The Rev. A. W. Wilson, pastor of the Negro church where the meeting was to be held, said he would not disclose "under any circumstances" the names of those who asked permission to use the church for the meeting.

Ministers of various churches led the meeting last night.

Earlier, Bagley had issued statement saying the bus company "is sorry if anyone expects us to be exempt from any state or city law."

In the Rosa Parks case yesterday, the city was prepared to offer testimony from 11 witnesses. Only three, Blake and two women passengers testified. One of the women said there was an empty seat where Rosa Parks could have sat if she had moved to the rear.

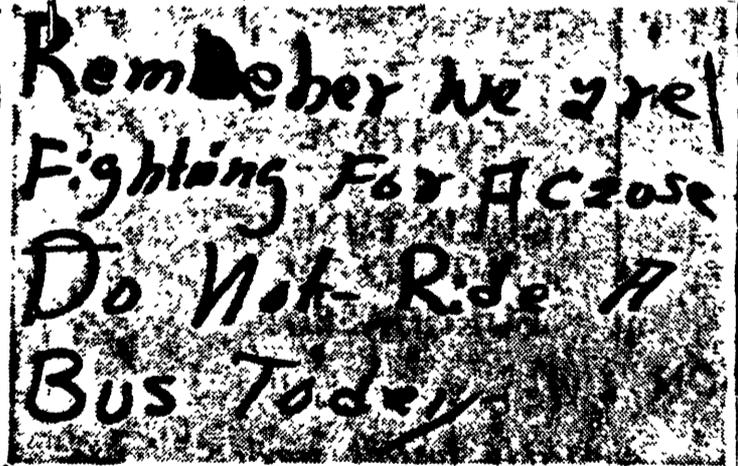
As the boycott started yesterday morning, Negroes stood on downtown street corners waiting for rides or piled into taxicabs. Many walked two or three miles to work in the crisp cold weather.

Most Negro children walked to school and there was a relay auto pickup system operating throughout most of the day.



NEGROES TO CONTINUE BOYCOTT

An estimated crowd of 5,000 Negroes roared approval to a resolution last night at the Holy Street Baptist Church to continue a boycott against the Montgomery City Lines, Inc. until the bus situation is settled to the satisfaction of its patrons. The huge assemblage featured the appearance of Rosa Parks, 42-year-old Negro woman, who was convicted yesterday of violating segregation laws by refusing to move from the white section of a city bus to the Negro section under orders of the bus driver.—Photo by Leisher.



NEGRO BOYCOTT POSTER

This is one of the posters which city policemen yesterday removed from bus stop posts as Negroes staged a boycott against the Montgomery City Lines over arrest of a Negro woman on a transportation segregation charge. The poster states: "Remember we are fighting for a cause. Do not ride a BUS today."

cc [redacted]

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December 14, 1955

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

Director, FBI

100-135-61-3

100-135-61-3
RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
FBI FILE 100-135

Racial Matters - Montgomery,
Alabama

RECORDED - 78
INDEXED - 78
EX-107

As a matter of interest to the Department there is enclosed herewith one Photostat each of two newspaper articles captioned "Extra Police Set For Patrol Work In Trolley Boycott" and "5,000 At Meeting Outline Boycott; Bullet Clips Bus," which appeared in the "Montgomery Advertiser" newspaper dated December 5, 1955, and December 6, 1955, respectively, published at Montgomery, Alabama.

The boycott against the use of buses operated by the Montgomery City Lines, Incorporated, according to the newspaper items, resulted from the arrest of a Negro who refused to accept an assigned seat in the Negro section of a local bus on December 1, 1955.

Our Mobile, Alabama, Office is following developments in regard to this matter and all pertinent information obtained will be transmitted to the Department promptly.

Enclosures (2)

cc - Mobile (44-00-A)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3 ck/gcl

NOTE SAC, MOBILE:

Reurairtel December 7, 1955. In view of the potential violence that could follow as a result of this boycott, you should keep the Bureau advised of all pertinent developments obtained by your office in connection with this matter.

McG...

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- DeLoach _____
- Casper _____
- Tamm _____
- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

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DEC 14 1955
MAILED 25

50 DEC 27 1955

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Handwritten signatures and initials: J.B., W.C., etc.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Mobile (44-00-A)

SUBJECT: ~~RACIAL MATTERS~~
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DATE: 12/9/55

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**
DATE 2/22/83 BY SP3 CLK/9 CL

Remyairtel to Bureau 12/7/55 transmitting newspaper clippings relative to boycott against Montgomery City Bus Lines in Montgomery, Alabama by the Negroes in that area.

As of possible further interest to the Bureau I am transmitting herewith the following newspaper items:

Items captioned "BUS OFFICIALS AGREE TO MEET WITH NEGROES" and "NEGRO MINISTER DENIES EFFORT TO END SEGREGATION ON BUSES," appearing in The Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, 12/6 and 7/55 respectively; and an editorial appearing in The Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, under date of 12/7/55 captioned "AT HOLT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH."

1-D (Racon - Mobile)

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Encl. (3) [redacted]
(3) 10

Let to AAG-Johnson
12/16/55 - MJM 1/1

RECORDED - 78

INDEXED - 78

100-125-61-4

DEC 12 1955

[redacted] M. C. Stewart

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At Holt Street Baptist Church

Deeply Stirred Throng Of Colored Citizens Protests

Bus Segregation

By Joe Azbell

City Editor, The Advertiser

AS I drove along Cleveland Avenue en route to the Holt Street Baptist Church Monday night, I could see Negroes by the dozens forming a file, almost soldierly, on the sidewalk. They were going to the Rosa Parks protest meeting at the church.

They were silent people, bundled in overcoats, performing what appeared to be a ritual. I parked my automobile a block from the church and noted the time was 8:45. Already cars were strung out for six or seven blocks in each direction.

In fact, the area around the church looked like Cramton Bowl at an Alabama State-Tuskegee football game. Except for one thing: these people were stony silent.

The Negroes eyed me and one inquired if I was a policeman. He turned to his three companions: "He says he ain't the law." I walked up to the steps of the church and two Negro policemen were standing there chatting. Both were courteous when I introduced myself and one went inside and found out about the seating arrangement for the press. Chairs were placed down front for the reporters. The TV cameraman from WSFA-TV and the United Press reporter later took these seats. I stood in the rear of the church during the meeting while Reporter Steve Leshner anchored himself in a chair near the church's pulpit.

The inside of the church is impressive because of its simplicity. The church has the ordinary equipment of the upper middle class white church and there's a large mirror across the back wall.

I observed police squad cars parked two blocks away in each direction from the church and occasionally a police sergeant would drive by and check with the four Negro policemen who were handling the traffic at the church.



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 5/24/83 BY sp3ck/gcl

THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
DECEMBER 7, 1955
(JOE AZBELL, CITY EDITOR)

Re: RACIAL MATTERS
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
Mofile 44-00-A

ENCLOSURE

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68 DEC 27 1955

100-135-61 64

FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS

I WENT inside the church and stood at the front for a few minutes. The two rear doors were jammed with people and a long aisle was crammed with human forms like a frozen food package. I went to the rear of the church and it was the same. The Negro policemen pleaded with the Negroes to keep the aisles free so people could get out. In the end the policemen gave up in despair of correcting the safety hazard. Bodies at the front were packed one against the other. It required five minutes for a photographer to move eight feet among these people in trying to leave the building.

The purpose of this meeting was to give "further instructions" on the boycott of city buses which had been started as a protest of the Negroes against the arrest, trial and conviction of Rosa Parks, 42-year-old seamstress, on a charge of violating segregation laws by refusing to give up her seat to a white person and move to the rear of a city bus.

There were four white reporters or photographers at the meeting. Only one other white person attended. He appeared to be a young college student or salesman and he came with a Negro and left with a Negro. He sat in the group of Negroes in the balcony.

SPEAKERS UNIDENTIFIED

THE meeting was started in a most unusual fashion. A Negro speaker—apparently a minister—came to the microphone. He did not introduce himself but apparently most of the Negroes knew him. He said there were microphones on the outside and in the basement, and there were three times as many people outside as on the inside. There was an anonymity throughout the meeting of the speakers. None of the white reporters could identify the speakers. Most of the Negroes did. The introduction of Fred Daniels and Rosa Parks were clear and brief. Daniels was arrested in the boycott Monday.

WHITES LISTEN

THE passion that fired the meeting was seen as the thousands of voices joined in singing *Onward, Christian Soldier*. Another hymn followed. The voices thundered through the church.

Then there followed a prayer by a minister. It was a prayer interrupted

A hundred times by "yes" and "ah-huhs" and "that's right." The minister spoke of God as the Master and the brotherhood of man. He repeated in a different way that God would protect the righteous.

As the other speakers came on the platform urging "freedom and equality" for Negroes "who are Americans and proud of this democracy," the frenzy of the audience mounted. There was a volume of clapping that seemed to boom through the walls. Outside the loudspeakers were blaring the message for blocks. White people stopped blocks away and listened to the loudspeakers' messages.

THE HAT IS PASSED

THE newspapers were criticized for quoting police authorities on reports of intimidation of Negroes who attempted to ride buses and for comparing the Negro boycott with the economic reprisals of White Citizens groups.

The remark which drew the most applause was: "We will not retreat one inch in our fight to secure and hold our American citizenship." Second was a statement: "And the history book will write of us as a race of people who in Montgomery County, State of Alabama, Country of the United States, stood up for and fought for their rights as American citizens, as citizens of democracy."

Outside the audience listened as more and more cars continued to arrive. Streets became Dexter traffic snarls. There was hymn singing between speeches. In the end there was the passing of the hats and Negroes dropped in dollar bills, \$5 bills and \$10 bills. It was not passive giving but active giving. Negroes called to the hat passers outside—"Here, let me give."

PEACEFUL MEANS

WHEN the resolution on continuing the boycott of the bus was read, there came a wild whoop of delight. Many said they would never ride the bus again. Negroes turned to each other and compared past incidents on the buses.

At several points there was an emotionalism that the ministers on the platform recognized could get out of control and at various intervals they repeated again and again what "we are seeking is by peaceful means."

"There will be no violence or intimidation. We are seeking things in a democratic way and we are using the weapon of protest," the speakers declared.

MORE HYMNS

I LEFT as the meeting was breaking up. The Negroes made a path for me through the crowd as I went to my car, but the packed group found it uncomfortable to move. A cry of "fire" would have caused a panic that could have resulted in scores of deaths. Negroes on the outside recognized this danger but these people wanted to see and hear what was going on.

There was hymn singing as I drove away. At the first corner where I turned, I nodded at the policemen in a squad car. At the next corner I saw another squad car. And at the next corner where I stopped for a signal light, the driver of another squad car asked if the meeting had ended.

The meeting was much like an old-fashioned revival with loud applause added. It proved beyond any doubt there was a discipline among Negroes that many whites had doubted. It was almost a military discipline combined with emotion.

Bus Officials Agree To Meet With Negroes

Boycott Declared To Be Dropping In Effectiveness

By BUNNY HONICKER

An attorney for the Montgomery City Lines Bus Co. said today the firm would have no objections to meeting with the Negroes responsible for the racial boycott against the company but, "I think they ought to get their house cleaned first."

Atty. Jack Crenshaw made the statement in reply to a resolution passed last night by some 1,000 hymn-singing Negroes who met at the Holt Street Baptist Church and voted unanimously to continue the boycott begun yesterday in protest of the arrest, trial and conviction of a Negro woman seamstress charged with violating a state segregation law.

DISCLAIM CREDIT FOR LAW

"I have no objection meeting with them at any time," Crenshaw said. "But I think they should hold their meeting with city and state officials — not us. We're not responsible for the law, but we do have to obey it. I explained that to them six months ago."

Last night's resolution stated in part that Negroes had been forced on "numerous occasions" to relinquish their seats to whites, but never vice versa.

"I'm sure that's irritating to them," Crenshaw said, in reference to the statement. "But the law requires it at certain times and that's absolutely wrong about white people never having had to give up their seats for Negroes. Both juvenile court and police records will show it is wrong."

BOYCOTT LEGALITY DOUBTED

Crenshaw said he "wasn't sure" whether the boycott is legal or not. "At any rate, I think they should get their house cleaned first," he added.

J. H. Bagley, manager of the bus firm, said today about "three or four times more Negroes" were riding the buses this morning than yesterday, the first day of the mass boycott.

In the heavily-populated Negro areas of Washington Park and South Jackson, about "twice as many" Negroes were riding City Lines buses today than yesterday, Bagley added.

NONE PASSED UP

The bus company manager also sought to kill a rumor — ap-

parently started by the Negro boycott group — that the bus drivers were refusing to take on Negro passengers.

"We haven't passed up any body," Bagley said. "I imagine that's something the Negroes started up."

SHOOTING PROBED

Meanwhile, Police G. J. Ruppenthal said his men are investigating a report by Bagley that a .22 caliber slug was fired into a City Lines bus in the Washington Park area last night. A few minutes later, in the same area, a bus driver said a large stone was thrown into the side of his vehicle. Damage was slight.

At last night's meeting, crowds of Negroes swarmed in and around the Holt Street Baptist Church and roared their approval when spokesmen urged them to continue the boycott in protest to the conviction of Rosa Parks, 634 Cleveland Ct., a 42-year-old seamstress who had refused to take a Jim Crow seat on a city bus last Thursday night. She was fined \$10 and costs in Recorder's Court yesterday by Judge John B. Scott.

The woman's attorney, Fred J. Gray, appealed the decision and signed a \$100 appeal bond along with E. D. Nixon, a former state president of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People.

THE ALABAMA JOURNAL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
DECEMBER 6, 1955
(FRONT PAGE)

Re: RACIAL MATTERS
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
Mofile 44-00-A

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY Sp3cl/gcl

100-135-61-4

COURT TEST LOOMS

Court officials said they felt confident the appeal would be used to test the constitutionality of Montgomery's segregated bus system. However, Gray declined to comment specifically on this point, saying only, "I intend to use every legal issue to defend my client."

Last night's crowd at the Holt Street church, overflowed the auditorium, spilled into three streets and blocked traffic.

The Negroes passed a four-part resolution last night urging:

1. All citizens of Montgomery "regardless of race, color or creed" to refrain from riding buses owned and operated by the City Lines Bus Co. "until some arrangement has been worked out between said citizens and the bus company."

2. That every person owning or who has access to automobiles will use them in assisting other persons to get to work "without charge."

3. That employers of persons who live a great distance from their work, "as much as possible" provide transportation for them.

4. That the Negro citizens of Montgomery are ready and willing to send a delegation to the bus company to discuss their grievances and to work out a solution for the same.

And a solution does not necessarily mean integration, a Negro leader pointed out today.

"We want the bus company to provide service on a first-come, first-serve basis," the Negro leader said. "We do not feel that Negroes should be forced to vacate a seat and stand in order for a white person to have a seat."

Fred Daniel, 19, of 1646 Hall St. who was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge yesterday after police said he tried to prevent a Negro woman from getting on a bus, was introduced to the crowd. Also introduced was Rosa Parks. Both drew standing ovations. Spokesmen described both

persons as churchgoers and industrious, law-abiding citizens.

Police Commissioner Clyde Sellers had men patrolling all the bus lines yesterday and also had motorcycle patrolmen following buses to prevent any outbreak of violence, following earlier reports of threats against any Negro bus riders.

Rev. M. L. King, pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, told last night's crowd that the "tools of justice" must be used to attain the "day of freedom, justice and equality." He urged "unity of Negroes" for "we must stick together and work together if we are to win. And we will win in standing up for our rights as Americans."

Other speakers said the bus boycott was not anything like the "methods of the White Citizens Councils for what we are doing is legal and constitutional."

"It is not like the Ku Klux Klan in going to our homes and taking men out and lynching them. It is not terrorism but democracy, a protest of Americans in action," one speaker declared.

YOUTH FREED IN 'BOYCOTT' CASE

Negro Minister Denies Effort To End Segregation On Buses

A Negro youth was acquitted in Recorder's Court today on a charge of attempting to pull a Negro woman off a boycotted City Lines Bus, and a Negro minister later said during an interview, "We are not asking an end to segregation."

Rev. M. L. King, pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, made the statement following the acquittal of Fred Daniel, 19, of 1646 Hall St., who appeared before Judge John B. Scott on a disorderly conduct charge.

PATROLMAN TESTIFIES

Patrolman Ralph Hammonds, behind the South Jackson bus early Monday along with his partner, C. A. Weaver, testified he saw a Negro woman about 50 years old "running to catch the bus" at the intersection of Thurman and Jackson Streets.

"This boy grabbed her arm and manually pulled her off," Hammonds said. "We placed him under arrest and the woman said, 'He's my color — I'll take care of him.'"

Negro Atty. Fred D. Gray, who represented Daniel, asked Hammonds if he got the name and address of the woman. Hammonds said he didn't.

Gray then introduced Leva G. Percival, 1506 S. Hall St., and asked Hammonds if she was the woman alleged to have been pulled off the bus. The officer said she looked like the one.

Leva Percival then took the stand and testified, "I was not about to catch the bus. I was going to the store on the corner of Thurman and Hall. All I had on was a gown with a coat thrown over it."

STORY CORROBORATED

The woman further corroborated

Daniel's story that he was merely "escorting" her across the street.

The Percival woman also denied Hammonds' quote concerning, "He's my color."

"I didn't say that," she declared. "I said, 'I'm not getting on this bus and he hasn't done nothing wrong.'"

NOT ASKING END

The charge was dismissed. Later, during an interview in Gray's law office, Rev. King had this to say about the boycott which is now well into its third day:

"We are not asking an end to segregation. That's a matter for the Legislature and the courts. We feel that we have a plan within the law. All we are seeking is justice and fair treatment in riding the buses. We don't like the idea of Negroes having to stand when there are vacant seats. We are demanding justice on that point."

Rev. King said the boycott group was ready to meet with bus line officials "any time we get an invitation."

The boycott will continue, he said, "Until we gain concrete results."

NEW DRIVER CONTRACT

J. H. Bagley, manager of the Montgomery City Lines Bus Co., announced last night his company had agreed upon a new two-year contract with the union representing the city bus drivers, thus averting any possibility of a pre-Christmas strike. The contract is expected to be signed this week.

Bagley said today the boycott was "holding its own" with the drop in Negro passengers staying around the 85 per cent level. He also said there was nothing to a

✓
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3 ckl/gcl

✓ THE ALABAMA JOURNAL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
DECEMBER 7, 1955

Re: RACIAL MATTERS
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
Mofile 44-00-A

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-1

rumor that several of the buses this morning were "unsegregated."

"It was just like it always was," he said. "I don't know how that got started."

PAY HIKE IN PART

Under the terms of the new bus company and union contract, Bagley said bus drivers will average between \$350 to \$360 per month. The new contract calls for a 4-cent hourly increase for the first six months of the contract, 3 cents an hour for the remaining 10 months of the contract.

The Negro bus boycott grew out of the arrest and conviction of Rosa Parks, a 42-year-old Negro seamstress who was fined \$14 for failing to move to a Jim Crow seat on a city bus in violation of a state segregation law.

Bagley declined to make an estimate of the decrease in company receipts as a result of the boycott. He did say that Negroes comprised some 70 per cent of the normal trade and that business normally falls off some 15 to 20 per cent on bad, rainy days. On such days, the drop in receipts runs from \$600 to \$800, he said.

AIR RIFLE PELLETS HIT BUS

Meanwhile, police said two air rifle pellets struck a glass and the side of a bus traveling east on Mill Street just west of Cleveland Avenue yesterday.

Bus driver W. D. Bates told officers the bus was empty at the time and that he was unharmed.

Later, bus driver J. B. Gardner reported his bus was stoned twice at the intersection of Union and Columbus Streets, once at 8:50 p.m. when a rock broke a rear window and again about 10:10 p.m. when a side glass was broken by thrown

rocks. No one was hurt.

Bagley reiterated the statement of the bus company's attorney, Jack Crenshaw, that the Negroes should seek to meet with city officials and not wait for an "invitation."

"If they don't like the law we have to operate under," Crenshaw said earlier, "then they should try to get the law changed, not engage in an attack upon the company."

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

December 16, 1955

Director, FBI

100-135-11-4
RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Reference is made to my memorandum dated December 14, 1955, enclosing for the Department photostats of newspaper articles concerning the arrest of a Negro in Montgomery, Alabama, who refused to accept an assigned seat in the Negro section of a local bus on December 1, 1955.

As a matter of further interest to the Department, there is enclosed herewith one photostat each of three newspaper articles which appeared in "The Alabama Journal," Montgomery, Alabama, December 6 and 7, 1955, and "The Montgomery Advertiser," Montgomery, Alabama, December 7, 1955.

Any further pertinent information obtained concerning this matter will be transmitted to the Department without delay.

Enclosures (3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY SP3/CLJ/CL

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- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
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- Tamm _____
- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
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- Gandy _____

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : Director, FBI (100-135)

DATE: 12/21/55

FROM : SAC, Mobile (44-00-A)

SUBJECT: Agitation Among Negroes
RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Classified by sp3 id/gcl
Declassify on: OADR 3/22/83

Reference is made to memorandum from the Bureau to the Department dated 12/14/55 with reference to airtel from Mobile dated 12/7/55.

As of possible additional interest to the Bureau, [redacted] Montgomery Police Department, advised SA [redacted] that he had no information relative to the boycott at Montgomery in addition to that which appeared in the newspapers. Pertinent items appearing in the press have been previously forwarded to the Bureau.

[redacted] (c) b1

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[redacted]

2 - Bureau (100-135) (Encl. 1)

2 - Mobile (44-00-A)

RECORDED-48

INDEXED-48

16 DEC 27 1955

CONFIDENTIAL

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 12-1-83 BY SP3 JAW/AN

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CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI

12/21/55

b1 [REDACTED] (c)

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It is noted that the pastor at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church is the Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, one of the principal colored spokesmen in the current boycott.

I am attaching hereto an item appearing in the Mobile Press under date 12/19/55 captioned "SEEKS SOLUTION TO BUS BOYCOTT," wherein it is pointed out that a committee of eight white and eight colored citizens would try again on an agreement to end the bus boycott which began two weeks previously.

Per Bureau instructions, you will be kept advised of any pertinent developments in this matter.

Encl. (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

SEEKS SOLUTION TO BUS BOYCOTT

Committee Of 18 Meeting
Again In Montgomery

MONTGOMERY, Ala. —(AP) A committee of eight white and eight colored citizens will try again here Monday to agree on terms for ending a bus boycott that began two weeks ago.

The committee, appointed by Mayor W. A. Gayle, failed to come to terms at the first meeting last Friday but agreed to continue efforts Monday.

The group had split on a resolution urging postponement of the boycott until Jan. 15. The white members all voted for the resolution and all eight colored members voted against it.

Thousands of colored persons have refused to ride city buses since Dec. 5 in protest to a \$4 fine given a woman who refused to move back into the rear of a bus as required by state law and a city ordinance. Mayor Gayle appointed the committee to make recommendations to the city commission on the terms demanded by colored leaders for ending the boycott.

At an earlier meeting with bus company officials, colored spokesmen requested a seating arrangement in buses based on a "first come, first served" basis, more courtesy on the part of bus drivers to colored patrons and the employment of colored bus drivers on predominantly colored routes.

Bus officials refused to employ colored drivers. They said the proposed seating arrangement was against the law, and pointed out that there had been no recent reports of discourtesy by drivers toward colored patrons.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY 673 cl/gcl

THE MOBILE PRESS
MOBILE, ALABAMA
DECEMBER 19, 1955

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
Mofile 44-00-A
Bufile 100-135

100-135-41-5

ENCLOSURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

7C

cc - Mr. [redacted]
nk

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

January 4, 1956

Director, FBI

Classified by SP3 clj/gcl
Declassify on: OADR 3/22/83

RECORDED-59

RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
FBI File 100-135-61-5

Reference is made to my memoranda dated
December 14 and 16, 1955, concerning the captioned matter.

61
124

[redacted]

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY SLIP(S) DATE

[redacted]

In regard to the afore-mentioned boycott, an
item appeared in the December 19, 1955, edition of "The
Mobile Press" stating that a committee of eight white
and eight colored citizens will meet in an attempt to
agree on terms to end the boycott that began on December 5,
1955.

COMM - FBI
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MAILED 30

Any additional pertinent information received
in this matter will be furnished the Department promptly.

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
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- Holloman _____
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FBI - Mobile (44-00-A) (See note page 2)
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
JAN 11 1956

Letter to Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

ATTENTION SAC, MOBILE:

Reurlet December 21, 1955.

You should continue to advise the Bureau of all important developments in connection with the boycott of the Montgomery City Lines, Incorporated, by Negroes in Montgomery.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
2 -

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-135)

DATE: 12/28/55

FROM : SAC, Mobile (44-00-A)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION (RACON)
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Remylet 12/21/55 and previous correspondence re captioned matter.

As of possible further interest to the Bureau, I am transmitting herewith the following newspaper items pertaining to this matter:

1. Item appearing in Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, under date of 12/17/55, "BUS BOYCOTT IS BEING AIRED."
2. Item appearing in Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, under date 12/20/55, "MAYOR'S COMMITTEE STALLS IN HUNT FOR TRANSIT TRUCE."
3. Item appearing in Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, 12/22/55, "BUS HOLIDAY IS ANNOUNCED."
4. Advertisement appearing in the Advertiser-Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, 12/25/55, captioned "TO THE MONTGOMERY PUBLIC" and signed by "THE NEGRO MINISTERS OF MONTGOMERY AND THEIR CONGREGATIONS."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY Sp3clt/jcl

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EX-121

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& photostats of names
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RECORDED - 4

EX-121

100-135-61-6

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JAN 10 1956

Bus Boycott ^{3/17}
Is Being Aired ^P

National Official
Here To Seek Truce

A National City Lines official stated that the bus lines must operate under the authority of the laws of the state and the city in regard to segregation, at a meeting today at the Chamber of Commerce offices in an attempt to break a 13-dayold Negro boycott of City Lines buses.

This meeting was presided over by the City Commission and represented was labor, P-TA groups and the Montgomery Improvement Association (Negro).

K. E. Trotten, of Chicago, vice president of the National City Lines, a nationwide organization which holds the bus franchise here, stated that it is up to the citizens of Montgomery on how the decision of segregation shall be determined.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mayor W. A. Gayle stated "I want to see it (bus boycott) settled as soon as possible."

Gayle said that he hoped "something could be worked out at this meeting to satisfy both the white and colored."

Following the address by Gayle, the Rev. Thomas Thrasher, head of the Alabama Human Relations Council, pointed out that he helped arrange the meeting to serve as go-between rather than take sides.

Dr. M. L. King, president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, said the Rosa Parks' incident was not the cause for the boycott, but a culmination of a series of incidents over a number of years.

He reiterated stand of the Negroes concerning the boycott and repeated the three proposals to end the boycott.

Jack Crenshaw, attorney for the local bus company, commented that the bus company must comply with state laws and the bus firm had no authority to change the segregation act on buses.

Negro leaders said they don't want to wipe out the Jim Crow law, but merely want to change it so that neither Negroes nor whites would have to stand when seats are available, regardless of what section they are in. They called this a "first come, first serve," policy, which was flatly refused by the company.

OK ✓

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN

DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3 cle/fjd

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALA.
Mofile 44-00-A
Bufile 100-135

ALABAMA JOURNAL
MONTGOMERY, ALA.
DECEMBER 17, 1955
PAGE 1

100-135-61-6

ENCLOSURE

SHARP EXCHANGES

A-12-20-55

**Mayor's Committee Stalls
In Hunt For Transit Truce**

BY TOM JOHNSON

A mayor's committee formed to study the Negro boycott of Montgomery City Lines buses adjourned no nearer a solution yesterday after a two-hour meeting which featured several sharp exchanges between white and Negro members. No date was set for a future meeting.

Dr. Henry Parker, committee

chairman, called a halt to the meeting at 11:30 a.m. "on the basis of the thinking" of committee members

Adjournment was barely staved off an hour earlier when Atty. Luther Ingalls' name was added to the list of white members.

The Rev. M. L. King, pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and spokesman for the Negro Montgomery Improvement Association, called for immediate adjournment.

"The mayor has been very unfair," he said, "to add to the committee without consulting us. He has not appointed a representative committee of whites."

He further charged the white members with coming to the meeting with "preconceived ideas" and "minds already made up." He moved for adjournment.

Mrs Logan A. Hipp, her voice shaking, replied: "I resent very deeply the statement that we have come here with preconceived ideas. I most certainly did not."

Another member, James J. Bailey, said: "I came here prepared to vote for liberalization of interpretation of the city laws with certain conditions. We have (See COMMITTEE, Page 2A)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3 cle/fcl

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALA.
Mofile 44-00-A
Bufile 100-135

MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER
MONTGOMERY, ALA.
DECEMBER 20, 1955
PAGE 1

100-155-61-6

ENCLOSURE

Committee

(Continued From Page 1)

some whose minds are made up and I think Rev. King is one of them."

King said he did not mean all members but insisted that some of them held preconceived notions.

At that point Chairman Parker said to King impatiently: "If that's true, then you should not be here. Your stand has been made clear."

Ingalls said the mayor included him on the committee but he was unable to attend the Saturday meeting. That, he said, might have led to the misunderstanding.

A new proposal was presented by the Rev. Stanley Frazer, calling for allocation of space on each bus in proportion to "the average patronage of each race."

Once the allotted spaces were filled, Frazer's proposal would allow either race to temporarily occupy seats in the adjoining section, until they became needed.

This resolution was not voted on, after Negro Atty. C. D. Langford said it would "put us right back where we were," with the driver determining the seating.

As in previous meetings, the Negro group, which said it represents 50,000 persons, declined to alter its demands for abolishment of all reserved sections, with seating on a "first come, first served" basis.

Walter Knabe, a city attorney, said it was his belief this plan would be illegal under the segregation laws.

Negro Atty. F. D. Gray contended the City Code does not spell out the manner in which segregation shall be accomplished. He said:

"Bus companies are left entirely free to handle the problems of separation of the races as they see fit, or, for that matter, not to segregate them at all."

Whatever is decided, said K. E. Totten, vice president of National City Lines, the bus company will abide by the decision.

Bus Holiday Is Announced

City Okays Plans For 3-Day Halt

The City Commission today gave Montgomery City Lines permission to halt service on all lines on Dec. 25 and 26 and Jan. 1 "unless the existing boycott by Negro passengers is sooner ended."

And Mayor W. A. Gayle said the present bus situation "may be leading up to an increase in fares" if a solution is not found. He added that negotiations toward the renewal of the franchise held by City Lines "are at a standstill."

After a unanimous vote for the reduced holiday service, commissioners explained that "very few passengers" use buses during the yearend holidays.

OFFICIAL RETURNS HOME

The written request was signed by K. E. Totten of Chicago, vice president of National City Lines who has been in Montgomery for a week conferring with officials in an effort to end the 18-day-old boycott.

Totten left Montgomery late yesterday, apparently convinced he could do nothing more to help end the boycott. A spokesman for the local company, a subsidiary of the Chicago firm, said Totten agreed upon his departure to "come back to Montgomery whenever he was needed."

The mayor also said today that he had not received a report from the 10-member bi-racial committee he named to investigate the boycott and recommend solution. The group has met twice without success.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY [signature]

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALA.
Mofile 44-00-A
Bufile 100-135

ALABAMA JOURNAL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
DECEMBER 22, 1955
PAGE 1

100-135-61-6

ENCLOSURE

TO THE MONTGOMERY PUBLIC:

We, the Negro citizens of Montgomery, feel that the public has a right to know our complaints and grievances which have resulted in the protest against the Montgomery City Lines and our refusal to ride city busses. We, therefore, set forth here some of the many bitter experiences of our people, who have, at various times, been pushed around, embarrassed, threatened, intimidated and abused in a manner that has caused the meekest to rise in resentment:

COMPLAINTS:

1. Courtesy:

The use of abusive language, name calling and threats have been the common practices among many of the bus operators. We are ordered to move from seats to standing space under the threat of arrest, or other serious consequences. No regard for sex or age is considered in exercising this authority by the bus operator.

2. Seating:

The bus operators have not been fair in this respect. Negroes, old, young, men and women, mothers with babes in their arms, sick, afflicted, pregnant women, must relinquish their seats, even to school children, if the bus is crowded. On lines serving predominantly Negro sections, the ten front seats must remain vacant, even though no white passenger boards the bus. At all times the Negro is asked to give up his seat, though there is not standing room in the back. One white person, desiring a seat, will cause nine Negroes to relinquish their seats for the accommodation of this one person.

3. Arrests:

Numerous arrests have been made even though the person arrested is observing the policy as given us. This year the following persons have been arrested and convicted, although they were seated according to the policy given us by the bus company. They are Claudette Colvin, Alberta "Coote" Smith, and Mrs. Rosa Parks. Among others arrested at other times are Mrs. Viola White, Miss Mary Wingfield, two children from New Jersey, and a Mr. Brooks, who was killed by the policeman.

4. Two Fares:

Many house-servants are required to pay an additional fare if the bus is late getting to town, causing them to miss a bus going to Cloverdale or other distant points. Some of these have complained that on returning from work similar incidents have occurred necessitating the payment of double fares.

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALA.
Mofile 44-00-A
Bufile 100-135

ADVERTISER-JOURNAL
MONTGOMERY, ALA.
DECEMBER 25, 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN

DATE

3/22/53

BY

[Handwritten signature]

5. Making Change:

We understand that correct change should be given the operator, but there are times that such is not possible. Several bus operators have refused to make change for passengers and threatened to put them off for not having the exact amount. One one occasion a fellow-passenger paid the fare of one such passenger to prevent her from being put off.

5. Passing Up Passengers:

In many instances the bus operators have passed up passengers standing at the stop to board the bus. They have also collected fares at the front door and, after commanding Negro passengers to enter from the back door, they have driven off, leaving them standing.

7. Physical Torture:

One Negro mother, with two small children in her arm, put them on the front seat while she opened her purse for her fare. The driver ordered her to take the children from the seat, and without giving her the chance to place the children elsewhere, lunged the vehicle forward, causing the small children to be thrown into the aisle of the bus.

8. Acknowledgement:

Not all operators are guilty of these accusations. There are some who are most cordial and tolerant. They will go to the extent of their authority to see that justice and fair play prevail. To those we are grateful and sympathetic.

9. Adjudication:

Every effort has been used to get the bus company to remove the causes of these complaints. Time and time again complaints have been registered with the bus company, the City Commission and the manager of the bus company. Committees of both sexes have conferred but to no avail. Protests have been filed with the mayor, but no improvement has been made.

In March we held a conference with the Manager of the Montgomery City Lines and made a very modest request: (1) that the bus company attorney meet with our attorneys and give an interpretation to laws regulating passengers and, (2) that the policy of the bus on seating be published so that all bus riders would be well-informed on the policy of the bus. To this day this has not been done.

The manager read to us the city code and informed us that this is in the hands of every bus driver. At this meeting, the arresting officers of the Claudette Colvin case were there along with the Police Commissioner. The bus operator, who caused the arrest of Claudette Colvin, was requested to be present. But did not come.

A committee met with the Mayor and Associate Commissioners when the bus company requested a raise in fare. No protest was made against the raise, but only against seating and courteous treatment of passengers. Nothing came of this and Negroes were treated worse after the increase in bus fare than before.

The Great Decision:

The bus protest is not merely in protest of the arrest of Mrs Rosa Parks, but is the culmination of a series of unpleasant incidents over a period of years. It is an upsurging of a ground swell which has been going on for a long time. Our cup of tolerance has run over. Thousands of our people, who have had unhappy experiences, prefer to walk rather than endure more. No better evidence can be given than the fact that a large percent of the Negro bus riders are now walking or getting a ride whenever and wherever they can.

Our Proposal:

The duly elected representatives of the people have the approval of the bus riders to present three proposals:

1. That assurance of more courtesy be extended the bus-riders. That the bus operators refrain from name calling, abusive language and threats.
2. That the seating of passengers will be on a "First-Come, First-Served" basis. This means that the Negro passengers will begin seating from the rear of the bus toward the front and white passengers from the front toward the rear until all seats are taken. Once seated, no passenger will be compelled to relinquish his seat to a member of another race when there is no available seat. When seats become vacant in the rear Negro passengers will voluntarily move to these vacant seats and by the same token white passengers will move to vacant seats in the front of the bus. This will eliminate the problem of passengers being compelled to stand when there are unoccupied seats. At no time, on the basis of this proposal, will both races occupy the same seat. We are convinced by the opinions of competent legal authorities that this proposal does not necessitate a change in the city, or state laws. This proposal is not new in Alabama, for it has worked for a number of years in Mobile and many other Southern cities.
3. That Negro bus drivers be employed on the bus lines serving predominately Negro areas. This is a fair request and we believe that men of good will, will readily accept it and admit that it is fair.

Nature of Movement:

1. Non violence—

At no time have the participants of this movement advocated or anticipated violence. We stand willing and ready to report and give any assistance in exposing persons who resort to violence. This is a movement of passive resistance, depending on moral and spiritual forces. We, the oppressed, have no hate in our hearts for the oppressors, but we are, nevertheless, determined to resist until the cause of justice triumphs.

2. Coercion—

There has not been any coercion on the part of any leader to force any one to stay off the busses. The rising tide of resentment has come to fruition. This resentment has resulted in a vast majority of the people staying off the busses willingly and voluntarily.

3 Arbitration—

We are willing to arbitrate. We feel that this can be done with men and women of good will. However, we find it rather difficult to arbitrate in good faith with those whose public pronouncements are anti-Negro and whose only desire seems to be that of maintaining the status quo. We call upon men of good-will, who will be willing to treat this issue in the spirit of Him whose birth we celebrate at this season, to meet with us. We stand for Christian teachings and the concepts of democracy for which men and women of all races have fought and died.

THE NEGRO MINISTERS of Montgomery and Their Congregations

THE METHODIST MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE,
The Rev. J. W. Hayes, President

THE BAPTIST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE
The Rev. H. H. Hubbard, President
The Rev. R. D. Abernathy, Secretary

THE INTER-DENOMINATIONAL MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE
The Rev. L. Roy Bennett, President
The Rev. J. C. Parker, Secretary

THE MONTGOMERY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
Dr. M. L. King, Jr., President
The Rev. U. J. Fields, Secretary

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-135)

DATE: 1/4/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (44-00-A)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Agitation Among Negroes

Re previous correspondence to Bureau and particularly mylet 12/28/55 transmitting a number of newspaper clippings pertaining to this situation at Montgomery, Alabama.

The Bureau is advised that on 12/30/55 [redacted] confidentially informed SA [redacted] that he, [redacted] had been assigned by [redacted] to find out all he could about Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, colored minister in Montgomery and leader in the bus boycott. [redacted] said he had been requested especially by [redacted] to uncover all the derogatory information he could about KING. He did not know the purpose of the investigation requested of him.

This is merely for the information of the Bureau and [redacted] comments should be treated strictly confidential.

RECORDED - 30

18 6 JAN 1956

INDEXED-30

5 JAN 13 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY [signature]

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WORK
FILE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Graetz

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-125)

DATE: 1/23/56

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (44-00-A)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3cl/gcl

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALA.

RACON

Re Mobile letter to the Bureau, 1/16/56. ?-end 9

Referenced letter identified [redacted]

7C
7D

[redacted] that on 1/11/56, [redacted] received a threatening telephone call.

On 1/12/56, [redacted] advised that the same person who had called him at 3:35 p.m. on 1/11/56, called twice again later that same day and using very abusive language again threatened [redacted]. He added that in the meantime he had called the Montgomery City PD and that during two of the calls from the same person city detectives from the PD were present and listened in on those two telephone calls.

On 1/13/56, [redacted] again contacted the Montgomery Resident Agency and advised that during the previous night vandals had put sugar in the gasoline tank of his automobile and had slashed and severely damaged two of his tires. Again on the night of 1/13/56, [redacted] advised that he had received a telephone call from a person who asked him to open the drapes of his front window and stand in front of the window, the person saying that he "had something" for [redacted]. [redacted] was advised to contact the Montgomery PD concerning this threat.

[redacted] advised on 1/12/56, that he had received several letters, one of which contained insulting remarks. He said that there were no threats expressed in any of the letters and that most of them were complimentary.

The foregoing information is furnished as a matter of interest to the Bureau.

[redacted] has been encouraged to report to this Bureau all incidents of a similar nature as the above.

2 - Bureau (100-125)
1 - Mobile (44-00-A)
blc
RECORDED-42
INDEXED-42
EX. - 124
FEB 2 1956

100-135-61-8
7 JAN 25 1956
[redacted]
[redacted]

DIRECTOR, FBI

1/23/56

He is fully cognizant that the Bureau has no jurisdiction in these matters, but desires to be kept abreast of all developments in this situation.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-135)

DATE: 1/16/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (44-00-A)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Agitation Among Negroes

dot

Remylet 12/21/55.

A news article in the Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Ala., 1/9/56 related that a top-level meeting on the bus boycott was scheduled at City Hall in Montgomery for the same afternoon, and that City Commission and Negro leaders would meet and discuss the "seating arrangement." Negro delegates were expected to be Rev. M. L. KING, pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church; Attorney FRED D. GRAY; Rev. R. D. ABERNATHY, pastor of First Baptist Church (Negro); Rev. A. W. WILSON, pastor of Holt Street Baptist Church, "and others."

The 1/10/56 issue of the Montgomery Advertiser related that Mayor W. A. GAYLE announced that at the above conference, no decisions or agreements were reached.

The 1/10/56 edition of the Montgomery Advertiser carried a feature article on the editorial page in which was described the activities of Rev. ROBERT S. GRAETZ, white pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church, which is an all-Negro congregation. This article related that GRAETZ was a leader in the bus boycott, being in charge of the "transportation committee," for a time, and organizer of the extensive fleet of volunteer passenger cars which daily pick up Negro people and transport them to their employment, and home again. The article, which appeared to be the result of an interview with GRAETZ, related that a fleet of 250 to 350 cars operated daily, at an expense of \$200 per day, which money is raised through voluntary contributions, some from cities other than Montgomery.

In the article, GRAETZ purports to relate that on 12/19/55, he picked up a load of Negro passengers in his own private automobile, the passengers boarding by a regular parking place on Monroe Street in Montgomery, next to a taxi zone. One block away, he was stopped by Sheriff MAC SIM BUTLER of Montgomery County, who accused GRAETZ of

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY SP3 dcl/bcl

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INDEXED - 44
RECORDED - 44

100-135-61-9

JAN 15 1956

44-00-A
66 JAN 31 1956 EX. - 124

5- [Redacted] [Handwritten signature]

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Director, FBI

1/16/56

picking up passengers in a taxi zone, and "ordered GRAETZ to follow him to the county jail." After being lectured on "religion, politics, and patriotism," by a deputy sheriff, and after BUTLER failed in an alleged attempt to have GRAETZ charged with running a taxi and hauling Negro passengers in violation of segregation laws, GRAETZ was released without charge.

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On 1/10/56, [redacted] called the Montgomery RA and stated that he had just received a telephone call from an unidentified male person who used profane and abusive language, and who said to [redacted] "You'd better leave town, or else." He said it appeared to be a local call, originating in Montgomery. [redacted] asked if this were a violation of a Federal law, and was told that it was not. He was advised that it might be a violation of a State or City law, and should properly be reported to the PD or SO, or the County Solicitor. [redacted] was requested to keep this Office advised of any further developments indicating possible violence, and promised that he would.

In a casual conversation on 1/9/56, [redacted] former Special Assistant U. S. Attorney, MD of Ala., Montgomery, advised SA [redacted] that there is a law of the State of Ala. which prohibits two or more persons from conspiring to boycott any private business in Ala.

cc - Mr. [redacted]
7C

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

February 1, 1956

Director, FBI

Ramon - Mobile
RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
FBI File 100-195

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3 clefel

Reference is made to my previous memoranda concerning the boycott of the Montgomery City Bus Lines by Negroes in Montgomery, Alabama.

As a matter of additional interest our Mobile Office has advised that [redacted]

has received threatening telephone calls [redacted]

[redacted] in addition to receiving threatening telephone calls has been harassed by vandals who have tampered with his automobile. [redacted] has advised our Mobile Office that he has also received several letters one of which contained insulting remarks. He said there were no threats expressed in any of the letters and that most of them were complimentary.

[redacted] is cognizant that the Bureau has no jurisdiction in these matters and has been in contact with the Montgomery Police Department concerning the above incidents.

cc - Mobile (44-00-A For Information)

7C
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- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

RECEIVED UGV
MAILED 6
FEB 1 1956
COMM-FBI

RECORDED - 3
EX - 107
FEB 1 2 37 6H '56
FEB 17 2 1956
FBI
C.D. WITBROOK
W. J. [unclear]
m g m/k

68 FEB 7 1956

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 31 1956

TELETYPE

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Boardman
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Parsons
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Holloman
- Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/22/83 BY sp3 defjel

FBI, MOBILE 1-31-56 12-27 AM HPO
DIRECTOR, FBI URGENT

MOBILE - Mobile

RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, NEWS REPORTS ON T. V.
AND RADIO, MONTGOMERY, ALA. TEN P. M., JAN. THIRTY FIFTYSIX,
STATED THAT BOMB EXPLODED, NINE THIRTY P. M. ON FRONT PORCH
OF REV. MARTIN L. KING, THREE ZERO NINE SOUTH JACKSON ST.

MONTGOMERY, KING IS PRESIDENT, MONTGOMERY IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION AND PRINCIPAL LEADER OF THE NEGRO BUS BOYCOTT.

HOUSE OCCUPIED BY THREE PERSONS, BUT NONE INJURED, AS BLAST
DID ONLY SLIGHT DAMAGE TO PORCH AND WINDOWS. CHIEF OF POLICE,
GOODWYN REIPPENTHAL, ADVISED THAT MONTGOMERY PD INVESTIGATING
AND HAS ASCERTAINED THAT BOMB WAS ONE OR ONE HALF STICK OF
DYNAMITE, DETONATED BY SAFETY FUSE. NO SUSPECTS DEVELOPED.

AT TEN FIFTY P. M. SAME DATE, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] RECEIVED THREATING TELEPHONE CALL FROM
UNKNOWN PERSON WARNING HIM TO GET CHILDREN OUT OF HOUSE.
POLICE DEPARTMENT SUMMONED BY [REDACTED] ARRIVED QUICKLY.
BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED.

copies made
3 B-73, TWB-92
for review by
HSCA re 12-78 request.
(See Bufile #62-117290)

7C
100-135-61-11
7D
BFB 856

RECORDED-33
INDEXED-53

HALLFORD

END ADNA CK PLS

WA 1-28 AM OF FBI WA RRB

Mr. Rosen

CC: MR. ROSEN
AND SUPERVISOR
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

cc McGowan 4260

February 1, 1956

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

Director, FBI

RECORDED-53
RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
FBI File 100-135

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83

BY [signature]

Reference is made to my previous communications relative to the boycott of the buses by Negroes in Montgomery, Alabama.

For your additional information in this regard, the following data has been received from news reports emanating from radio and television stations in Montgomery.

At 9:30 p.m. on January 30, 1956, a bomb exploded on the front porch of Reverend Martin L. King, 309 South Jackson Street, Montgomery, president of the Montgomery Improvement Association and one of the leaders of the above boycott. This house was occupied by three persons, none of whom were injured. The bomb did only slight damage to the porch and windows of the house.

Goodwyn Reippenthal, Chief of Police, Montgomery, advised that the Montgomery Police Department is investigating this matter and has ascertained that the bomb consisted of one stick or one half of a stick of dynamite and had been detonated by a safety fuse. He stated that no suspects had been developed.

At 10:50 p.m. on the same date

[redacted] received a threatening telephone call from an unknown person warning him to get his children out of the house. The police arrived quickly after having been summoned by Reverend Grady. No further incident resulted in this regard.

Any additional pertinent information which may be obtained with regard to the above will be promptly brought to your attention.

2cc Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

NOTE ON YELLOW: Original of incoming teletype not available at time of dictation.

MAILED 2
FEB 1 1956
COMM-FBI

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

6 [redacted] 8/1956
(7)

[Handwritten signatures and notes, including 'RECEIVED ROOM 12-19 PM 5-12-56']

cc - Mr. Gowan Room 4260
Mr. [redacted]

7c

February 3, 1956

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY [signature]

RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
FBI File 100-135-61

(Racism) - [signature]

Reference is made to my memorandum dated February 1, 1956, concerning the bombing of the home of Reverend Martin L. King, one of the leaders of the boycott of the city bus lines in Montgomery, Alabama. For your additional information the following data has been received [redacted]

7D

At 9:45 p.m. on February 1, 1956, an explosive device was detonated in the front yard of E. D. Nixon, 647 Clinton Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama. Nixon, a leader in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, is an officer of the Montgomery Improvement Association, the organization which is directing the boycott of the Montgomery City busses by Negroes. At the time of the explosion, there were no injuries and only slight damage was done to the fence in front of Nixon's home. The explosive device was similar to the charge which exploded on the front porch of the home of Reverend Martin L. King.

The Montgomery, Alabama, Police Department is investigating this matter and no suspects have been developed.

Any additional pertinent information received in this matter will be brought to your attention promptly.

2cc - Assistant Attorney General [redacted]
Warren Olney III

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

NOTE ON YELLOW: Original of teletype not available at time of dictation.

mab:sad
(7)

RECORDED - 8

100-135-61-12
FEB 7 1956
[signature]

FEB 3 1956
COMM-FBI

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 2 1956

TELETYPE

ORACON

SAC, MOBILE
DIRECTOR, FBI

2-1-56

URGENT

11-59 PM

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mason	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

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1956
RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA. RMYTEL JAN. THIRTYONE LAST. [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT AT NINE FORTYFIVE P. M. THIS DATE AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE EXPLODED IN FRONT YARD OF E. D. NIXON, SIX FORTY SEVEN CLINTON AVE., MONTGOMERY, ALA.

NIXON IS NEARLY LEADER AND OFFICER OF MONTGOMERY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, ORGANIZATION WHICH IS MANAGING NEGRO BUS BOYCOTT, MONTGOMERY. NO INJURIES, AND ONLY SLIGHT DAMAGE TO FENCE.

[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT THE EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WAS SIMILIAR TO THE CHARGE WHICH EXPLODED ON FRONT PORCH OF RESIDENCE OF M. L. KING AS IN RETEL. POLICE DEPARTMENT, MONTGOMERY INVESTIGATING. NO SUSPECTS. NO FUTHER DEVELOPEMENTS EITHER CASE. WILL FOLLOW AND KEEP BUREAU ADVISED.

END AND ACK PLS
WA 1-03 AM OK FBI WA JB
TU DIS

HALLFORD ✓
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY [signature]

CC: MR. ROSEN
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

27
52 FEB 9 1956

Mr. Rosen

Implications & clues
Let's
3-3-56
70
RECORDED
INDEXED
400-135-61
17 FEB 7 1956

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mason	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

FBI MOBILE 2/1/56

Transmit the following Teletype message to:
DIRECTOR, FBI

AGITATION AMONG NEGROES
RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Remyteletype to Bureau 1/31/56.

For the Bureau's information, attached are news items appearing in the Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, on 1/31/56 captioned "CITY OFFERS \$500 REWARD IN BOMBING," and "NONE INJURED AFTER BOMBING OF KING HOME."

HALLFORD

- 3 - Bureau (AM) (Encl. 2) (100-135)
- 2 - Mobile (44-00-A)

Mr. Belmont

CC MR. BELMONT
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

RECORDED - 4

INDEXED - 4

EX-118

1 copies made
3-13-78 TUB: sps
Bombing
for review by
HSCA re: 3-3-78 est.
(See Bufile #102-117290)

100-135-61-14

FEB 8 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3claf/gh
Sent _____ M Per _____

50 FEB 14 1956

Special Agent in Charge

Handwritten marks: 'p', 'b', '0', and a large '7C' with a checkmark.

Handwritten '7C' with a checkmark.

Handwritten signature: 'McGowan'.

Handwritten note: 'photo of med. to Sampkins by 0-6 2-8-56 MGH'.

Handwritten initials: '2 R H'.

**City Offers
\$500 Reward
In Bombing**

The Montgomery City Commission last night offered a reward of \$500 for the capture and conviction of the persons who bombed the home of the Rev. M. L. King, Negro boycott leader.

Mayor W. A. Gayle, speaking for the City Commission said:

"We do not condone such acts of violence under any conditions in our community.

"The persons who committed this terrible crime should be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

"We are asking the cooperation of the entire community to find the guilty parties. We want any details, however small they may be, that may lead to the arrest of the guilty parties.

"Not in our community or any community in this land of ours should there be such terrible acts of violence. We are strongly in favor of law and order.

"We are offering a \$500 reward for the arrest and conviction of the guilty parties. We are providing police protection for the Rev. King and we hope that the community will cooperate in furnishing us any facts that will help to solve this crime."

ALA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3clg/rd

MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
JANUARY 31, 1956
FRONT PAGE

RE: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALA.
Mofile 44-00-A
Bufile 100-135

100-135-61-14

ENCLOSURE



VIEW OF BOMBED HOME

Front windows of the home of the Rev. M. L. King, Negro boycott leader, were shattered last night. It was believed a hand grenade or a bomb was placed on the front porch. The bomb shattered the front window, split a pillar on the porch.



None Injured After Bombing Of King Home

By **JOE AZBELL**
Advertiser City Editor

A bomb tossed on the porch of the home of the Rev. M. L. King, Negro boycott leader, 309 S Jackson St about 9:15 last night shattered windows, ripped a hole in the porch and cracked a porch column. No one was injured.

Neighbors reported that a light colored automobile was seen at the time of the explosion. It was believed to have stopped in front of the home as a man got out and placed or tossed the bomb on the porch.

Coretta King, wife of the Baptist minister, said she was sitting in the front room of the six-room white frame dwelling a half block from the Ben Moore Hotel when she heard footsteps and a thud "like a brick hitting on the porch."

She said she was talking with the wife of Roscoe Williams, Montgomery electrician, and that they feared the "thud" might be "something dangerous." The two women ducked through a side door to the middle bedroom and went to a third room in the rear. As they reached the third room, they said that they heard the explosion.

In the rear room also was the King's seven and a half weeks old baby, Yolanda Denise.

Vann Pruitt, assistant state toxicologist, said he believed the bomb to be either a hand grenade or a half stick of dynamite.

HOLE IN CONCRETE

The bomb hit on the south side of the porch about two feet from the concrete steps. It ripped a slight hole about a half inch deep, four inches long and two inches wide in the tile-like porch covering.

DVERTISER
ALABAMA
1956

AST ROCKS
BUS BOYCOTT

RE: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALA.
Mofile 44-00-A
Bufile 100-135

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY SP3/ck/jed

100-135-61-14
ENCLOSURE

ADDRESSES NEGRO CROWD

gro boycott leader, addresses the large crowd that formed outside last night after the house was bombed. He told the Negroes peaceful, and remember if I am stopped, this movement will be peaceful. He is Fire Chief R. L. Lampley, Mayor W. A. Gayle, King, and



WHERE BOMB HIT

Police Officer M. L. Wray points to the spot on the front porch of the King home where a bomb hit last night exploding and shattering windows, a column and ripping a mailbox from the wall. The bomb left a shallow hole about four inches long and two inches wide. It was believed to be a hand grenade or a half stick of dynamite.

The bomb explosion shattered the four windows on the front of the house, as King glass flying inside the living room on the north side and den and music room on the south side. The house is the parsonage of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

The house is about 15 feet from the sidewalk and about 30 feet from the street.

A neighbor, Ernest Walters, 381 S Jackson, said he saw a light colored car stop in front of the King house and then move away in a "terrific hurry." Walters said he was walking up his sidewalk when he saw the car and immediately after heard the explosion. He said he saw one man driving the car.

The Williams woman told essentially the same story as the wife of King. She said she was "shocked by the explosion."

PLEA FOR PEACE

As a crowd of about 300 Negroes gathered outside the house, the 27-year-old Rev. King, in a dramatic scene, addressed them. He began by asking the group to be "peaceful."

"We believe in law and order. Don't get panicky. Don't do anything panicky at all. Don't get your weapons. He who lives by the sword will perish by the sword. Remember that is what God said. We are not advocating violence. We want to love our enemies. I want you to love our enemies. Be good to them. Love them and let them know you love them. I did

(See BOMBING, Page 2A)

ENCLOSURE

Bombing Of Negro Home

not start this boycott. I was asked by you to serve as your spokesman. I want it to be known the length and breadth of this land that

(Continued From Page 1)

if I am stopped this movement will not stop. If I am stopped our work will not stop. For what we are doing is right. What we are doing is just. And God is with us."

As he finished his talk, the crowd of Negroes cheered him, shouting "Amen," and "God bless you, Brother King."

Then Police Commissioner Clyde C. Sellers addressed the group. A few minutes before, he had told the King couple inside their house that he did not condone "such acts of violence as this and I will certainly do everything in my power to bring the guilty parties to court and put them in prison." He told King that "I do not agree with you in your beliefs, but I will do everything within my power to defend you against such acts as this."

POLICE PROTECTION

He told the crowd the same and added that he was providing "police protection for the King family."

Mayor W. A. Gayle, also on the scene, told the group that "I am for law and order and the entire white community is for law and order and none of us condones or believes in these sorts of acts in any way. I am going to work with my last breath if necessary to find and convict the guilty parties."

A short distance away, Sheriff Mac Sim Butler was aiding in the investigation. He said that he was "opposed to such acts of violence and would furnish men and equipment and anything else in his power to help find the guilty parties."

The Rev. King addressed the group again saying "go home and sleep calm. Go home and don't worry. Be calm as I and my family are. We are not hurt and remember that if anything happens to me, there will be others to take my place."

Negroes continue to sit from the rear toward the front but would not be required to stand if any seats are vacant.

But officials of the Montgomery City Lines and the City Commission have contended that such a plan would still violate state and city segregation laws that separate facilities be maintained for whites and Negroes.

King, dressed in an overcoat and suit, arrived home about 15 minutes after the bombing. He said that he had just returned from a Negro mass meeting at the First Baptist Church at Ripley and Jefferson where some 2,000 Negroes met.

"BE CALM AND QUIET"

He said he had addressed that group to "be calm and quiet. Don't do anything that will not be for justice, for God is with us."

5-MINUTE SPEECH

As he walked up on the porch, he calmly asked what happened, looked at the windows and went inside where he met his wife. They discussed the bombing in a rear room and then he returned to the porch to address the crowd. Standing there before the group surrounded by four policemen, Police Chief G. J. Ruppenthal, Fire Chief R. L. Lampley, Sellers and Gayle, he spoke for about five minutes.

The line of traffic moving up and down the street caused a huge jam and police were stationed at Adams street and High street to keep traffic off the street.

An Advertiser reporter questioned people in homes on both sides of Jackson street, and only one Negro besides Walters said he saw an automobile. The man said he thought the car was a taxi cab but he would not give his name and disappeared in the crowd. Police were attempting to locate the Negro for further details last night.

Sellers said that he was leaving a patrol car on duty throughout the night and that he would "continue to provide police protection for King."

The Rev. King, pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, has been the main spokesman for the boycotters since the movement began Dec. 5 in protest to the segregated seating facilities on city buses.

The Negro minister was fined \$10 in police court Saturday on a speeding charge. He denied going 30 miles an hour in a 25-mile zone and said his arrest was the result of his activities in the boycott.

NO FURTHER EFFORTS

His arrest followed an announcement by Mayor W. A. Gayle who said the three-member City Commission was through "with pussy-footing" around with the boycotters. The mayor said the commission would make no further efforts to reach a compromise.

Boycott leaders, many of them ministers, have demanded that seats on city buses be made available on a "first come, first served" basis. They have suggested that

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

cc - Mr. [redacted]

76

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

February 9, 1956

Director, FBI

RACIAL SITUATION
Montgomery, Alabama
FBI File 100-135-61

(RACON) - Mobile [signature]
DECLASSIFIED BY [signature]
ON 2/22/83

The following information has been received from an informant who has furnished reliable data in the past.

On January 23, 1956, this informant heard a rumor from an unidentified source to the effect that Negroes in the vicinity of Montgomery had purchased almost the entire stock of firearms and ammunition from dealers in such goods in Montgomery over the period of the past several weeks. He did not know whether or not this was done on an organized basis or at the direction of a Negro leader.

On February 1, 1956, [redacted] advised that he also had heard similar information from an unidentified source.

On February 3, 1956, a source, whose reliability has not yet been established but who is in a position to know of such matters, advised that during the past several days in conversation with numerous Negroes he had heard that many Negroes in the "tough" northern section of Montgomery were arming themselves for an unspecified purpose. This source stated he is certain that this was not being done at the direction of any Negro organization known to him. He further stated that the leaders of the Montgomery Improvement Association, which group organized the Negro bus boycott in Montgomery, are unanimous in their belief that the cause of the Negro minority in the South would suffer greatly if any violence were to take place regardless of who started the violence and regardless of who won the "battle." This source continued that he has heard Reverend Martin L. King, official of the Montgomery Improvement Association, state that he would prefer to see 100 Negroes killed in passive resistance rather than see the Negroes take up arms and commit acts of violence against their oppressors.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY SLIP(S) DATE 2/12/56

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 8/22/85 BY [signature]

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Rm. _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

RECORDED-57

RECORDED-57

MAILED 6
FEB 9 1956
COMM-FBI

100-135-61
FEB 10 1956

7 1 FEB 15 1956 CONFIDENTIAL

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[Handwritten initials]

LOW

[Handwritten initials]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Letter to Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

None of the above sources indicated that they
had heard of any organization of Negroes in Montgomery
which advocates violence.

Any additional pertinent information which
may be obtained relative to this matter will be promptly
forwarded to you.

2cc - Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

cc - Liaison Section
Mr. [redacted]

7C

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE 7/12/83

100-135-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/23/83 BY SP3 ckl/hcl

Date: February 9, 1956
To: Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Chief, Security Division

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: RACIAL SITUATION
Montgomery, Alabama

RACON - Mobile

The following information has been received
from an informant who has furnished reliable data in
the past.

On January 29, 1956, this informant heard a
rumor from an unidentified source to the effect that
Negroes in the vicinity of Montgomery had purchased
almost the entire stock of firearms and ammunition from
dealers in such goods in Montgomery over the period
of the past several weeks. He did not know whether or
not this was done on an organized basis or at the
direction of a Negro leader.

On February 1, 1956, [redacted] advised that he
had heard similar information from an unidentified source.

On February 3, 1956, a source, whose reliability
has not yet been established but who is in a position to
know of such matters, advised that during the past several
days in conversation with numerous Negroes he had heard
that many Negroes in the "tough" northern section of
Montgomery were arming themselves for an unspecified
purpose. This source stated he is certain that this
was not being done at the direction of any Negro organiza-
tion known to him. He further stated that the leaders

DECLASSIFIED BY SP3 ckl/hcl
DATE 3/22/83

BY COURIER SVC.
11 FEB 10
COMM - FBI

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____

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[redacted] dae
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COMM - FBI
FEB 9 1956
MAILED 26

100-135-61-716
FEB 10 1956
INDEXED-51

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[redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Letter to Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Army

of the Montgomery Improvement Association, which group organized the Negro bus boycott in Montgomery, are unanimous in their belief that the cause of the Negro minority in the South would suffer greatly if any violence were to take place regardless of who started the violence and regardless of who won the "battle." This source continued that he has heard Reverend Martin L. King, official of the Montgomery Improvement Association, state that he would prefer to see 100 Negroes killed in passive resistance rather than see the Negroes take up arms and commit acts of violence against their oppressors.

None of the above sources indicated that they had heard of any organization of Negroes in Montgomery which advocates violence.

Any additional pertinent information which may be obtained relative to this matter will be promptly forwarded to you.

2cc - Director of Special Investigations
The Inspector General BY COURIER SERVICE
Department of the Air Force
Building Tenpe E
4th and Adams Drive, E. W.
Washington, D. C.

2cc - Director of Naval Intelligence
Department of the Navy
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

TO : Director, FBI (100-135)

FROM : SAC, Mobile (44-00-A)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DATE: 1/30/56

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY [signature]

Gretz

(RACON) Mobile

Re Mobile letter to the Bureau, dated 1/23/56

Referenced letter furnished additional information concerning [redacted]

7D
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On 1/19/56, [redacted] again contacted the Montgomery RA and advised that he had been visited by person identifying himself as [redacted] who told [redacted] that a committee, not otherwise identified, was being formed for the purpose of formulating a resolution to request [redacted] to resign [redacted]

[redacted] allegedly told [redacted] that the committee was planning to meet on the evening of 1/19/56 and that they would call on [redacted] in the near future. [redacted] stated that [redacted] left his business card, which reflected that he is a representative of [redacted]

[redacted] advised on 1/21/56 that he had discussed the above incident with a writer on the staff of the Montgomery Advertiser, [redacted] and said that [redacted] was very much interested in this matter and requested [redacted] to notify him when and if the committee calls at his house. [redacted] reportedly told [redacted] that he desired to bring newspaper photographers to the scene and interview members of the group for possible use as a news story in the paper. [redacted] stated that [redacted] manner did not indicate that his group intended him any violent harm, but stated that nevertheless he does not intend to permit a number of people into his house, whose intentions toward him are not known. He said that he plans to hold them on the front porch until he has time to call [redacted] of the Police Department, so that protection will be available if necessary. [redacted] stated further that he has obtained and has installed in his living room a microphone and recording machine for the purpose of recording statements made by members of this unidentified committee.

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141
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② - Bureau (100-135) b7d
1 - Mobile (44-00-A)

[redacted] bjw
(3)

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INDEXED-35

100-135-61-17
16 FEB 10 1956

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[signature]

Director, FBI (100-135)

1/30/56

Ala.

No significant developments leading toward a settlement of the bus boycott have been reported recently. On the other hand, an article appearing in the 1/24/56 issue of the Montgomery Advertiser reflected that members of the Montgomery City Commission and Mayor W. A. GAYLE of Montgomery, have stated that they do not intend to have any more meetings with representatives of the negro people in this matter. Mayor GAYLE was quoted as saying that most of the white people of Montgomery do not care whether or not the negroes ever ride the bus again. Mayor GAYLE also indicated on this occasion that he had joined the Central Alabama Citizens Council.

cc - Mr. [redacted]

7C

February 7, 1956

RECORDED-35

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins
100-135-61-17
Director, FBI

56-7C

RACIAL SITUATION
Montgomery, Alabama
FBI File 100-135-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY Sp3 cle/gcl

Reference is made to my previous communications relative to the boycott of city busses in Montgomery, Alabama, by Negroes.

As a matter of further interest, our Mobile Office has advised that [redacted]

[redacted] informed a Special Agent of our Mobile Office that a committee, not otherwise identified, was being formed to propose a resolution requesting to resign [redacted]. According to [redacted] the committee expected to call on him in the near future.

On January 21, 1956, [redacted] said he discussed this matter with a newspaperman on the staff of the "Montgomery Advertiser" who was very interested in the situation as a potential news story.

[redacted] has also informed that he has obtained and installed in his living room a microphone and recording machine to record any statements made by members of the committee in the event they visit his home.

Our Mobile Office has also advised that an article appearing in the January 24, 1956, issue of the "Montgomery Advertiser" reflected that members of the Montgomery City Commission and Mayor W. A. Gayle of Montgomery have stated they do not intend to have any more meetings with representatives of the Negroes in this matter. Mayor Gayle was quoted as saying that most of the white people of Montgomery do not care whether the Negroes ever ride the city busses again. Mayor Gayle also indicated on this occasion that he had joined the Central Alabama Citizens Council.

Any additional pertinent data received in regard to this racial situation will be furnished the Department promptly.

2cc - Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

cc - Mobile (For Information) (44-00-A)

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

68 FEB 15 1956

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Wet

[Handwritten signatures]

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COMM - FBI
FEB 7 1956
MAILED 19

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI
FROM : SAC, Mobile ^o RACON
SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
Montgomery, Alabama

DATE: 2/8/56

As of possible interest to the Bureau, attached hereto is item appearing in the Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, on 2/1/56, entitled "Sellers Reports Threats Made in Telephone Calls," and item appearing in the Alabama Journal, Montgomery, on 2/2/56 entitled "One of Five Plaintiffs Denies She Knew What She Was Signing."

Enc. (2) ¹⁴
② - Bureau (100-135-61)
1 - Mobile (44-439)
mem
(3)

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3cl/gcl

EXP. PROC.

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[Redacted]

RECORDED - 14

INDEXED - 14

100-135-61-18

FEB 20 1956

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FEB 20 1956

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64 FEB 20 1956

One Of Five Plaintiffs Denies She Knew What She Was Signing

By BUNNY HONICKER and JOE JONES

One of the five Negro women who signed a federal suit yesterday aimed at ending segregated travel in Montgomery and Alabama today informed Mayor W. A. Gayle and a newsman that she "didn't know what I was signing" and was withdrawing her name from the suit.

But Negro Atty. Fred Gray said later that the woman's statement was "far from the truth."

"She knew what she was signing," Gray declared.

Jeannette Reese, of 1454 S. Holt St., a 64-year-old housemaid, walked into the mayor's office about 10:30 a.m. and gave this account of the events leading up to her signing of the suit and of her desire to withdraw her name:

SURPRISE VOICED

Her employer informed her today "she was surprised" at seeing her name in the paper as one of the plaintiffs in a suit against city government and police officials along with City Lines Bus Co. "I'm surprised too," the housemaid told her employer. "You know I don't want nothing to do with that mess."

Jeannette Reese said her husband, who is ill, received a telephone call last night from an anonymous party who ordered her to get out of town.

The woman said she never authorized Gray to enter her name in a suit and never heard the word "suit" mentioned while she was in his office.

"I went to Gray's office to take some insurance papers," she said.

The woman said her husband's sister had died and that, because her husband was ill, she went to Gray's office to straighten out the matter of collecting on the policy her husband held on her sister.

ASKED ABOUT BUSES

While she was in the Negro lawyer's office, she said he asked her: "What do you think about the buses?"

"It looks awful," I said. "It looks like they could get together."

She said Gray then asked her if she thought she had received "fair treatment" on the buses.

"I told him 'no' that I had been pushed around and passed up a lot of times," she said. "He asked me if I would say that anywhere, and I told him: 'Sure, I'll say it anywhere that I didn't get (fair) treatment.' And then he asked me to sign some papers. I didn't know what they were."

"He asked me if I was sure I wanted to sign and I said: 'Yeah, I'll sign. They treat us like horses.' So I hauled off and signed. He didn't say anything about a suit."

Atty. Gray, contacted by telephone a short time later, said the woman had just left his office a short time before and had made no mention of wanting to withdraw her name from the suit.

SAYS OFFICER CALLED

"I do know that a cop called her last night and told her he was surprised at her signing the suit," Gray said. "And she, along with the others, have received several threatening telephone calls."

But she was in here this morning and I asked her if she still wanted to go through with the suit in view of the threats made (See SEGREGATION, Page 3A.)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY [signature]

Alabama Journal
Montgomery, Alabama
2/2/56

Re:
RACIAL SITUATION,
Montgomery, Alabama

Bufile 100-135-61
Mofile 44-439

100-135-61-18

against her. She said, 'yeah' "What she said later is far from the truth. She knew what she was signing," Gray added. Gray declined to identify the "cop" who allegedly called Jeanette Reese last night. He also denied that he was the one who brought up the bus situation.

Gray said "pressure" evidently had been brought to bear against the woman to force her to withdraw her name.

JUDGE IS SILENT

Meanwhile, U. S. District Court Judge Frank Johnson, asked to comment on whether such a withdrawal would have any effect on the validity of the suit, said it was not his policy to comment on such matters until the matter was formally presented before the court.

However, an attorney who declined to be quoted by name, said the woman's withdrawal of her name would have no effect on the ongoing litigation.

Meanwhile, defendants named in the suit, including members of the City Commission, this morning were handed copies of the complaints against them. Jack Johnson of the U. S. district marshal's office delivered the documents.

Commissioner Clyde Sellers said the commission had not had time to study the charges but would probably meet soon to discuss them. The defendants are required to answer the charges within 30 days.

The suit names as defendants Gayle, Commissioners Sellers and Frank Parks individually and as the City Commission, Police Chief G. J. Ruppenthal, the Montgomery City Lines bus company, and bus drivers James F. Blake and Robert Cloere.

THREE JUDGES TO SET

A federal court spokesman said today the case would be heard by a panel of three U. S. judges, to be named by Judge J. C. Hutcheson Jr., chief judge, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, Houston, Tex.

Date of the hearing will depend upon the trial schedules of the three judges selected, it was learned. It is not known whether Frank M. Johnson, judge of the local court, will be included on the panel.

Two of the five women filing the complaint, Mary Louise Smith, and Claudette Colvin, have been convicted within the past year of segregation law violations.

The complaint asks that the court declare unconstitutional those sections of the Alabama code and the city code which require separate facilities for whites and Negroes on public vehicles.

It also requests that city officials named in the suit be prevented from "interfering with Negroes, or using force, threats or other intimidation" to compel them to use segregated city buses.

The defendants are charged with depriving Negroes of their "rights, privileges and immunities" and with violating the 14th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution in seeking "to compel the plaintiffs and other Negro citizens to use the bus facilities."

An estimated 80 per cent of the Negroes have refused to ride city buses since Dec. 5 in protest to the segregated seating facilities.

CITY TO ENFORCE LAWS

Mayor Gayle, speaking for the City Commission, declined to comment on the suit except to say that the segregation laws would continue to be enforced. Chief Ruppenthal also declined comment.

In the suit, the Negro woman accuse Chief Ruppenthal of "punishing a number of Negro citizens solely because of their insistence under the Constitution that they are entitled to use the Montgomery City Lines buses without being segregated."

The complaint says Negroes who have been using their private cars to transport bus boycotters are being harassed by police and pro-

secuted for minor violations "which are not being enforced against white people."

As part of "their plan of intimidation," the suit alleges, the three members of the City Commission "publicly announced their affiliation with the Central Alabama White Citizens Council or some similar name."

It was disclosed last week that the three members of the City Commission had joined the pro-white Central Alabama Citizens Council which is pledged to maintain segregation by legal means.

At the same time, Mayor Gayle announced that the City Commission was through "pussyfooting around" with boycott leaders and would make no further efforts for a compromise.

The suit was filed by Aurelia B. Bowder, Susie McDonald, Jeanette Reese, Claudette Colvin and her father, Q. P. Colvin, and Mary Louise Smith by her father, Frank Smith.

AFTER MONDAY BOMBING

**Sellers Reports Threats
Made In Telephone Calls**

Commissioner Clyde Sellers said yesterday he received a series of telephone calls from "anonymous Negroes" threatening him and his family with violence following the bombing of the Rev. M. L. King's home Monday night.

Sellers said he and his wife "recognized the voices as belonging to Negroes." One caller said according to Sellers, "The same thing is going to happen to you that happened to King."

Monday night a blast which police said was caused by dynamite rocked the parsonage home of the Rev. King, an outspoken leader in the Negro boycott of city buses. There were no injuries.

Commissioner Sellers said he had "several" similar anonymous calls after he returned to his home Monday night following a personal investigation of the bombing at King's home.

He added that police are making periodic checks around his home and are also watching the homes of the other two members of the City Commission, Mayor W. A. Gayle and Commissioner Frank Parks.

Meanwhile, the pro-white Central Alabama Citizens Council offered a \$500 reward yesterday for a solution to the bombing. Mayor Gayle had posted a similar \$500 reward. Yesterday the Commissioners officially confirmed the reward in a resolution which said "strange and foreign acts" such

as the bombing will not be tolerated.

Negroes have been refusing to ride city buses here since Dec. 5 in protest to the segregated seating required by state and city laws. Boycott leaders have requested that seats be allotted on a "first come, first served" basis. The bombing was the first violence reported since the early days of the protest movement. Several shots were fired at buses then but they caused no injuries.

The Rev. King, who returned home about 10 minutes after the explosion Monday night, issued an appeal from his bomb-damaged home to Negro associations. He urged them not to resort to violence and promised "If anything happens to me, there will be others to take my place."

State Sen. Sam Engelhardt of Macomb County, president of the Central Alabama Citizens Council, announced the \$500 reward offered by his group for a solution to the bombing. He said the council is pledged to fight racial integration by legal means and "we deplore this type of demonstration."

The three members of the City Commission are members of the council. They revealed last week that they had joined the anti-integration organization after repeated negotiations with Negro leaders had failed to reach a solution to the bus boycott.

Meanwhile, the City Commission refused to grant a hearing for an application to operate a jitney transportation service filed by a group of Negroes.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY [signature]

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Alabama
2/1/56

Re:
RACIAL SITUATION
Montgomery, Alabama

Bufile 100-135-61
Mofile 44-439

FITG R.S. 103

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 2/10/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile

ATT'N INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

SUBJECT: RACIAL INTEGRATION RACON

As of possible interest to the Bureau, I am attaching hereto two copies of an item appearing in the Dothan Eagle, Dothan, Alabama, under date of 2/6/56 captioned "Segregation Signs Return to Waiting Rooms in Dale."

- Enc. (2) ENCLOSURE
- 2 - Bureau
- 1 - Mobile (44-00-A)
- mem
- (3)

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3cl/9cl

EX-118 PROC.

7C
[Redacted]

RECORDED - 15 100-135-61-19

EX-118

18 FEB 1956

66 FEB 10 1956

McK...

'BY ORDER OF SHERIFF'

Segregation Signs Return To Waiting Rooms In Dale

OZARK — Signs segregating white and Negro passengers at the Atlantic Coast Line depot here now bear the additional words "By Order of the Dale County Sheriff."

ACL railroad officials here complied with the recent order from the Interstate Commerce Commission eliminating segregation in interstate transportation including depots and stations, and removed the signs.

But a short time later, the signs bearing the sheriff's order were replaced over the doors of the depot.

Sheriff Hoyt Searcy said he had vowed to uphold the law when he was elected to the office — and segregation is still an Alabama law.

"I will defend the county, state and federal government in that order," he declared, adding "the people of Dale County elected me."

"I conferred with (Circuit) Judge (George C.) Wallace and the circuit solicitor here and both

confirmed that segregation was still on the state statutes. I then nailed up the signs," he said. He added the signs are going to stay up on the depot until he receives a court order to remove them.

"My job is to keep peace," Searcy said, "and the quickest way to cause trouble is permitting both races to use the same waiting room."

According to Searcy, Ozark has the best race relations of any city in the Southeast, but he said, it won't do to crowd them in the same waiting room.

Mayor Douglas Brown agreed with Searcy that "There's no race trouble here. . . He added: "Segregation remains in effect."

ACL officials at the depot had "no comment." But J. M. O'Brien, railroad detective, declared "We're working under the rules of the Interstate Commerce Commission."

He observed, "It seems to be a case of federal regulations conflicting with state laws."

DOTHAN EAGLE,
DOTHAN, ALABAMA
2/6/56

Re:
RACIAL INTEGRATION

Mofile 44-00-A

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/85 BY sp3clj/gcl

ENCLOSURE

100-135-11-17

FBI

Date: 2/11/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, MOBILE

To: DIRECTOR, FBI
CRACON
RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

Re Mobile airtel, 1/16/56.

Counter Intelligence Corps

RICHARD JONES, Agent of CIC, 111th Detachment, Montgomery, Ala., furnished to SA [redacted] on 2/10/56, a copy of a circular letter which purports to set forth a transcript of a recording purporting to have been made of a secret meeting of the NAACP held in Miss. in Dec., 1954. The communication, which quotes the transcript is addressed "To All Members of the Central Alabama Citizen's Council." The full text of this transcript will be set forth in a report on Ala. Citizens Council, IS-X, to be submitted by Mobile very soon. The purpose of this airtel is to advise the Bureau that at the end of the communication which quotes the transcript, is the following apparent request "The Grand Jury meets beginning Mon., Feb. 13th. Before it can indict and bring to justice those responsible for the boycott of the Bus Company, it will need evidence. If you have any information relative to negro GOON SQUAD activities, or other violence, or the names, dates or places or any negro boycott meetings, please call LUTHER INGALLS-- Phone 3-4419; or your Solicitor, - Phone 6903." It is noted that the last phone number is that of the State of Ala. Circuit Solicitor at Montgomery, who is a former Bureau SA WILLIAM THETFORD.

HALLFORD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY 3143/clj

3 - Director (100-135) (AM)

2 - Mobile (44-439)

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Belmont

RECORDED - 49

100-135-61-20

CC: MR. BELMONT
ASST. DIR. FOR
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

CC: MR. ROSEN

52 MAR 7 1956

FEB 13 1956

Approved: FH
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

0 7C

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

February 16, 1956

Director, FBI

RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
FBI FILE 100-135-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3c/kl

Reference is made to my memorandum of February 9, 1956, relative to rumors that Negroes in the vicinity of Montgomery had purchased almost the entire stock of firearms and ammunition from dealers in such goods in Montgomery over the period of the last several weeks.

N For your additional information inquiries at retail stores selling firearms and ammunition in Montgomery have failed to substantiate the above rumors. All individuals contacted in this regard stated there has been no unusual increase in the sale of firearms or ammunition.

One of the above individuals [redacted]

[redacted] stated that a somewhat increased demand for handguns had been noted on the part of white patrons but no such increase was observed in connection with Negro patrons. [redacted] advised that he does not handle handguns and so informed the inquiring customers.

Another individual contacted concerning this matter, [redacted] Sears Roebuck and Company, 135 Dexter Montgomery, stated there has been some increase in the sale of shotguns but said this increase was apparently due to the hunting season in Alabama and an increase in interest in hunting as a sport. He said he has not noticed that members of either the white or Negro race have predominated in the increased sale of shotguns.

Any additional pertinent information which may be obtained relative to this matter will be promptly forwarded to you

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____

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EX-124 RECORDED-20

FEB 17 1956

FEB 21 1956

MAILED 6
FEB 16 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 2/10/56

FROM : SAC, MOBILE

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALA.

Racon - mobile

ReMoAirtel to Bureau 2/6/56.

ReAirtel reports that a rumor from three different sources, usually reliable, to the effect that Negroes in Montgomery and vicinity were purchasing firearms and ammunition at a sharply accelerated rate.

Investigation on 2/7/56 at Montgomery resulted in the conclusion that there is no foundation in fact for this rumor. Specifically the following persons, representing retail establishments which sell firearms and ammunition, all stated there has been no unusual increase in the sale of firearms or ammunition.

Additional pertinent statements made by some of the following are set forth after their names:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that a somewhat increased demand for hand guns had been noted by white patrons but no increase in demands by Negro patrons. [REDACTED] said he does not handle hand guns and so informed the inquiring customers.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sears, Roebuck and Co., 135 Dexter - [REDACTED] stated there has been some increase in the sale of shotguns but said this increase was apparently due to the hunting season in Ala. and an increase in interest in hunting as a sport. He said he has not observed that either members of the white or Negro race have predominated in the increase in sale of shotguns.

- 2 - Bureau (100-135-61)
- 1 - Mobile (44-439)

RECORDED - 17

100-135-61-

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(3)

18 FEB 20 1956

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EX-113
RECEIVED
18 FEB 20 1956
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SWC

DIRECTOR, FBI

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7D

[REDACTED]

The above list of establishments does not represent all of the retail stores selling firearms and ammunition in Montgomery. However it does represent all that normally would cater to Negro customers, and is considered a very representative number of such establishments.

(No new information of value concerning the racial situation in Montgomery has been reported from sources other than the press, and all pertinent clippings have been furnished to the Bureau.

1-Liaison Section

7C

RECORDED - 100-135-61

C

100-135-61-22

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY [signature]

DATE: February 16, 1956

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Chief, Security Division

FROM: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Reference is made to my memorandum of February 9, 1956, relative to rumors that Negroes in the vicinity of Montgomery had purchased almost the entire stock of firearms and ammunition from dealers in such goods in Montgomery over the period of the last several weeks.

For your additional information inquiries at retail stores selling firearms and ammunition in Montgomery have failed to substantiate the above rumors. All individuals contacted this regard stated there has been no unusual increase in the sale of firearms or ammunition.

One of the above individuals, [redacted]

[redacted] stated that a somewhat increased demand for handguns had been noted on the part of white patrons but no such increase was observed in connection with Negro patrons. [redacted] advised that he does not handle handguns and so informed the inquiring customers.

Another individual contacted concerning this matter, [redacted]

[redacted] Sears Roebuck and Company, 135 Dexter, Montgomery, stated there has been some increase in the sale of shotguns but said this increase was apparently due to the hunting season in Alabama and an increase in interest in hunting as a sport. He said he has not noticed that members of either the white or Negro race have predominated in the increased sale of shotguns.

Additional pertinent information which may be obtained relative to this matter will be promptly forwarded to you.

:bas (9)

BY COURIER SVC.
21 FEB 17

Place
Sardana
Chols
Almont
Bo
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

66 FEB 23 1956

66 FEB 23 1956

7C

[signature]

[signature]

**Memorandum to Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Army**

**2cc - Director of Naval Intelligence
Department of the Navy
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C.**

**2cc - Director of Special Investigations
The Inspector General
Department of the Air Force
Building Temple B
4th and Adams Drive, S. W.
Washington, D. C.**

BY COURIER SERVICE

FEBRUARY 21, 1956

URGENT

SAC, MOBILE

7 - *0 RACON*
RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA. WASHINGTON, D. C.,
NEWSPAPERS FEBRUARY NINETEEN, FIFTYSIX, INDICATE GRAND
JURY, MONTGOMERY, HAS INDICTED ONE INDIVIDUAL REGARDING
BOYCOTT CITY BUSES, MONTGOMERY. ADVISE BY RETURN TEL
RESULTS OF GRAND JURY ACTION AND KEEP BUREAU ADVISED
OF PERTINENT INFORMATION RE BOYCOTT ON CONTINUING BASIS.

HOOVER

BUFILE 100-13561

100-135-61

(3)

7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3clt/gcl

RECEIVED READING ROOM
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U S DEPT OF JUSTICE
FEB 21 4 05 PM '56

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
RECORDED - 21
FEB 21 1956
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54 FEB 27 1956

4:21 PM. *mlb*

Handwritten signatures and initials
EX-113
FEB 23 1956
FEB 21 3 10 PM '56
100-135-61-23
21

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-135-61)

DATE: 2/17/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (44-439)

SUBJECT: ~~RACIAL SITUATION~~
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Mobile

mb

As of possible additional interest to the Bureau, I am transmitting herewith two copies each of the following newspaper items:

1. Item appearing in The Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, 2/15/56, captioned WING SAYS BOYCOTT PART OF REVOLT BY OPPRESSED.
2. Item appearing in The Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, 2/15/56, captioned CIRCUIT JUDGE CITES POSSIBLE PENALTY FOR CONVICTION ON ANTI-BOYCOTT LAWS.
3. Item appearing in The Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, 2/15/56, captioned HISTORY OF THE BOYCOTT LAW.
4. Item appearing in The Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, 2/13/56, captioned GRAND JURORS TOLD TO PROBE LEGALITY OF BUS BOYCOTT.
5. Item appearing in The Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, 2/15/56, captioned INDICTMENTS ANTICIPATED BY BUS BOYCOTT LEADER.

APR 11

EXD-PROC

2 Bureau (100-135-61) (Encl. 10)
1 Mobile (44-439)

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(3)

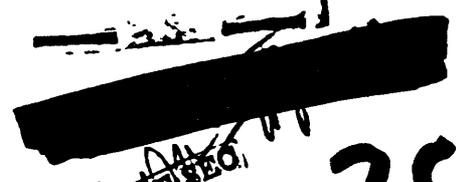
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2/20/56
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RECORDED-37 100-135-61-94
2/20 1956

INDEXED-37

EX-107



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10 ENCLOSURE

71 FEB 28 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3cle/ycl

ON CHICAGO VISIT

King Says Boycott Part Of Revolt By Oppressed

CHICAGO, Feb. 14 (AP)—A leader of the 10-week-old bus boycott by Negroes in Montgomery, Ala., said today the boycott is part of a worldwide revolt of oppressed peoples.

"It's part of something that's happening all over the world," said the Rev. M. L. King Jr., 27-year-old Negro Baptist minister.

"The oppressed peoples of the world are rising up. They are revolting against colonialism, imperialism and other systems of oppression."

He said this revolt was an apparently spontaneous movement throughout the world. He said he did not know why it is occurring at this particular time.

The Rev. Mr. King—in Chicago for a guest sermon last Sunday at a Negro church—gave his views at a news conference arranged by a family friend who said he wanted to "give a segment of the northern

press a chance to get an unbiased account of what is going on in Montgomery."

King, minister of the Dexter Ave. Baptist Church in Montgomery, is president of the Montgomery Improvement Assn. He said the association was formed to direct a boycott that began Dec. 5 in protest against segregated seating required on buses by state and city laws.

As of today, King said, only about 10 Negroes a day ride buses in Montgomery. About 65 per cent of the bus company's patrons were Negroes before Dec. 5, when Mrs. Rosa Parks, a Negro seamstress, was fined \$14 for refusing to move back to the Negro section of a bus. King said this incident sparked a "spontaneous" boycott by the city's Negroes.

"This is a movement of passive resistance," King said. "We have (See KING SAYS, Page 2A)

THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
FEBRUARY 15, 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/63 BY SP3 clg/jcl

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
Mofile 44-439
Bufile 100-135-61

100-135-61-24
ENCLOSURE

King Speaks On Boycott

kept violence out of the picture from our standpoint."

Two weeks ago small dynamite bombs were thrown at the homes

(Continued From Page 1)

of King and another Negro leader. King said he did not believe the bombs were intended to do any personal harm but were "a symbol of intimidation."

"I'm well guarded everywhere I go in Montgomery, by my friends," King said. "I asked the sheriff for personal protection and that was denied."

The Montgomery County grand jury yesterday began an investigation to determine if Negroes boycotting the buses are part of a conspiracy violating the law.

"I don't doubt that they will indict some of us," King said.

CONFERENCE LOOMS

He said Alabama law prohibits boycotts "without just cause" but that Montgomery Negroes feel they have just cause.

King said litigation initiated by the improvement association — a federal suit challenging the constitutionality of the segregated bus seating laws, and an appeal of Mrs. Parks' fine—will take several months and that "I am not sure that the people will want to continue the boycott that long."

He said Negro leaders will con-

fer shortly to decide whether to call off the boycott pending court decisions. The reason he gave for possibly ending the boycott was that car pools which have been organized to replace the buses have cost Negroes "a lot of money."

"But even if we decide to go back to the buses while the litigation is on, I don't believe more than 50 per cent of our people would go back until the system is changed," King said.

King later left by train for Atlanta. He said he would return to Montgomery tomorrow night.

Gun Permit Denied King

The Rev. M. L. King who yesterday gave an interview on the bus boycott in Montgomery to Chicago newspapermen, was denied a gun permit by the Montgomery County sheriff.

However, the Rev. King received the assurances of Police Commissioner Clyde C. Sellers, Mayor W. A. Gayle and Sheriff Mac Sim Butler that they would do "everything within their power" to protect him although they disagreed with his views and his actions.

A police car was left at his home following a recent bombing and Commissioner Sellers announced he would provide King with "complete police protection."

Despite King's statements that a meeting is planned to discuss ending the boycott, the minister denied telling two newspapermen that such a meeting was scheduled last Wednesday.

The newspapermen on two separate occasions were told by King that the Montgomery Improvement Assn.'s executive board would discuss the possibility of ending the boycott at the Wednesday meeting. King later said the newspapermen misunderstood him.

RECORDED

Circuit Judge Cites Possible Penalty For Conviction On Anti-Boycott Laws

Organized boycotting of lawful businesses is against the law and punishable by heavy fines or stiff sentences, Circuit Judge Eugene B. Carter advised, following his charge to the grand jury this week.

Persons convicted for unlawful boycotting are subject to a sentence of not more than six months in the county jail and fines of not more than \$1,000 or not less than \$100.

MAY BE DIFFICULT

Judge Carter, observing that Montgomery County has seldom been confronted with boycotts of any kind in the past and never with a boycott of city buses, said enforcement of the law may be difficult. He pointed out that the law applies to situations where persons are forced to boycott business organizations "involuntarily" through leadership or conspiracy. Simple failure to patronize a firm, even among a group, does not constitute boycotting, he said. However, persons responsible for inciting or organizing resistance to a business operation may be prosecuted, the judge added.

Judge Carter, who directed the jury to investigate acts of boycotting—emphasizing the current bus boycott—and determine violations of the law, cited Title 14, Chapter 20 of Alabama Code of 1940 which reads in part as follows:

boycotting statute are set forth in Title 14, Sect. 62 which reads as follows:

"Any persons, firm, corporation, or association of persons violating any of the sections, shall, on conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars, nor more than one thousand dollars and may also be imprisoned in the county jail or sentenced to hard labor for the county for not more than six months for the first conviction, at the discretion of the court or judge trying the case; and on the second and every subsequent conviction, at the discretion of the court or judge trying the case; and on the second and every subsequent conviction, in addition to the fine which may be imposed, the convicted party must be sentenced

to hard labor for not less than three months nor more than six months, to be fixed by the judge or court trying the case."

"Two or more persons who, without a just cause or legal excuse for doing so, enter into any combination, conspiracy, agreement, arrangement or understanding for the purpose of hindering, delaying, or preventing any other persons, firms, corporation, or association of persons from carrying on any lawful business, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

OTHER PROVISIONS

Other provisions of the code relative to boycotting make unlawful the following: "loitering or picketing, printing or circulating notice of boycott, using force or threats against persons engaging in lawful occupation, maintaining blacklists, attempt or threat to injure or destroy property of another, teaching, printing books or papers, or organizing persons to boycott . . ."

Penalties for violations of the

THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
FEBRUARY 15, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
Mofile 44-439
Bufile 100-135-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY Sp3cl/jcl

100-135-61-24
ENCLOSURE

History Of The Boycott Law

IT IS now apparent that the present Montgomery County grand jury will consider indictment of the bus boycott leaders. If indictments are returned, presumably the defendants will be tried under the state law governing "Boycotting & Blacklisting" (Title 14, Chapter 20, Sections 54-62, Code of 1940).

This law, part of which has been held unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court (the section forbidding picketing), was passed in October, 1921, to meet a labor crisis in Birmingham. Coal mine disturbances—including boycotts, dynamitings and murders—had moved Gov. Kilby to take firm measures. Troops had been on duty in Jefferson County, but, the governor said in his address to the special session of the legislature which convened Oct. 4, state criminal law was inadequate to cope with the situation.

★
GOV. KILBY'S proposal to strengthen the boycott law, as embodied in the criminal code of 1907, was not the chief reason for his calling the special session. In fact, the boycott amendment was No. 13 in a list of 18 measures he wanted passed. Of the boycott proposal, Kilby told the legislature:

The recent coal strikes in this state developed the fact that our civil and criminal laws were inadequate to promptly and properly deal with the conditions which existed just prior to and after the strike was declared. It was then discovered that by reason of the inadequacy of the statutes of this state relating to strikes, boycotts and blacklisting, etc., that the civil authorities were unable to prevent or even check many wrongful acts which inevitably led to the calling of the strike and to the perpetration of many heinous crimes which attended and followed the strike.

BECAUSE local authorities were powerless to act with no laws to check them up, it was necessary to call out the militia, Kilby told the legislature. He continued:

While martial law was not absolutely declared, nor the civil law actually suspended, the condition of affairs was so critical, so serious, that at times it appeared almost imperative that martial law should be declared in the coal mining districts of the state. If the statutes of the state had been adequate, and the civil authorities had been able to deal with the labor trouble, much if not all of the great loss of life, property and enormous expenses of the state would have been avoided.

Gov. Kilby spelled out his labor philosophy, which sounds primitive in these Taft-Hartley times. Basically, it was a recognition of the worker's "inalienable right" to work or not to work; the employer's inalienable right to hire and fire as he sees fit.

★
KILBY said the trouble in the coal mines was the work of "foreign agitators" attempting to promote socialism, "which often results in anarchy." Then he got to the point:

A conspiracy to starve or freeze or even an agreement to do acts, the natural and probable result of which is to cause great suffering or inconvenience to the public, is little less than treason against the government.

THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
FEBRUARY 15, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
Mofile 44-439
Bufile 100-135-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/28/53

BY sp3 clj/gcl

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-24

★
~~THE~~ get-tough-with-labor amendment, substantially the same law under which bus boycott leaders may be indicted, was passed. But, recalls Kilby's house floor leader at the time, Dothan Atty. Oscar L. Thompkins, not without a fight. "I was almost lynched in the process," Thompkins said in a telephone interview yesterday.

A few legislators denounced Kilby's proposal as "part of a nationwide program to destroy organized labor." Charged Rep. Harrison of Jefferson: "The Governor used every means in his power to crush the miners' strike in Jefferson County, then when he was called on to arbitrate, decided every point in favor of the coal operators."

Rep. Partridge of Franklin spoke against the bill, declaring that its effect would be to "bring the laboring man to the chopping block and lay his head on it."

★
REP. BENNERS of Jefferson spoke for the bill. He said the bill was aimed at labor agitators, and offered this terse, if drastic, advice to labor unions: "Hang your orators."

Yesterday, former floor leader Thompkins said that he hadn't reread the law he helped pass in many years. In fact, he thought it had been declared unconstitutional. (Only parts have been.) However, he confirmed that it was intended for use against labor. Sit-

uations like the Montgomery bus boycott were not foreseen.

★
THE law, originally aimed at miners and now brought to bear against non-riders of city buses, says in part:

Two or more persons who, without a just cause or legal excuse for so doing, enter into any combination, conspiracy, agreement, arrangement, or understanding for the purpose of hindering, delaying, or preventing any other persons, firms, corporations from carrying on any lawful business shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Violation is declared a misdemeanor, with maximum punishment fixed at 6 months in jail or \$1,000 fine, or both.

ENCLOSURE

NO COURT CAN INTERFERE', JUDGE SAYS:

Grand Jurors Told To Probe Legality Of Bus Boycott

By JO ANNE LUCCI

It is up to the Montgomery County grand jury to determine whether the local bus boycott is illegal, Circuit Judge Eugene Carter told jurors in his charge today.

"If it is illegal — and the grand jury will have to decide — it must be stopped," the circuit judge said. He also told the jurors that "no court, whether it be federal court, state court or city court, can interfere with your investigation." "You are the supreme inquisitorial body," he emphasized.

PLEADS NEIGHBORLINESS

"Montgomery has been a city that both races have had the pleasure of living in. I say to both black and white, let's continue to live as neighbors," Judge Carter said.

"The doctrine of hate has no place here and particularly has no place in our churches," he told the jurors.

Judge Carter said he had done some research on the term "boycott" since it is something new in Montgomery.

He quoted the Supreme Court as saying, in a New England case in which the term "boycott" was first used in America, as saying the following: "It seems strange that in this day and in this free country — a country in which law interferes so little with the liberty of the individual — it should be neces-

sary to announce from the bench that every man may carry on his business as he pleases, may do what he will with his own, so long as he does nothing unlawful, and acts with due regard to the rights of others.

CONSPIRACY LAW CITED

Judge Carter told the grand jury that authorities had established the proposition that such unlawful community of purpose entered into as conspiracy need not be proven by positive testimony. It must be determined by the triers of fact from the conduct of parties and all the relative testimony.

A case was also cited in which the court said "our decisions are to the effect that the right to conduct one's business without the wrongful interference of others is a valuable property right which will be protected, if necessary, by injunctive process."

In an Opelika case, the U. S. Supreme Court rules the courts are competent to adjudge the acts men do under color of a constitutional right, such as that of freedom of speech . . . and to determine whether the claim right is limited by other recognized powers, equally precious to mankind, the judge pointed out.

"It is recognized under the Constitutions, state and federal, that a person's business is property and (See GRAND JURY, Page 2-A)

THE ALABAMA JOURNAL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
FEBRUARY 13, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
Mofile 44-439
Bufile 100-135-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/28/83 BY sp3 clc/je

115-135-61-24
ENCLOSURE

Grand Jury

(Continued from Page 1-A)
if lawfully conducted is entitled to protection from unlawful interference," Judge Carter said.

"The essential idea of boycotting . . . is a confederation, generally secret, of many persons whose intent is to injure another by preventing any and all persons from doing business with him, through fear of incurring the displeasure, persecution and vengeance of the conspirators," the judge said in defining the word "boycott."

ELABORATES ON LAW

Judge Carter pointed out that where two or more persons combine or conspire to commit a crime, each is responsible for all acts committed by the others in the execution of the common design, if such acts are the natural or probable consequence of the unlawful combination of undertaking.

In contemplation of law, the act of each is the act of all, and this liability extends to persons who become parties to a conspiracy after it is formed, the judge told the jurors.

"Justice should be dished out of the same spoon, regardless of who violates the law—whether he be doctor, lawyer, rich or powerful," Judge Carter said.

"If anyone feels the laws are wrongful, we have the courts to go to for the settlement of difference," he said.

Circuit Solicitor W. F. Thetford said Alabama law makes participation in an unlawful boycott a misdemeanor punishable by six months in jail or a fine of \$300. He said anyone taking part in an illegal boycott is subject to prosecution.

City officials weren't available for comment on what the city might be able to do if the Grand Jury found the boycott illegal.

Bus Solicitor Thetford said the jury could indict boycott leaders if they had evidence of unlawful acts. At the same time, he said the jury couldn't compel Negroes to ride the buses again.

The 18-man grand jury is expected to hear testimony the rest of the week before making its report. Three Negroes were summoned and the name of one was drawn from a hat with 17 white jurors.

ISSUES WEAPONS WARNING

Judge Carter also issued a warning about carrying concealed weapons, which carries a \$500 fine in Montgomery County.

"Particularly at this time I think that the law against carrying concealed weapons should be rigidly enforced," he said.

He also told the grand jury to regulate the use of automobiles, investigating cases of driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, and other infractions.

He praised the grand jury system and told the jurors of the evolution of the jury, which he said is "democracy in action."

INTERVIEW GIVEN AT CHICAGO

Indictments Anticipated By Bus Boycott Leader

Rev. M. L. King Jr told Chicago newsmen yesterday that he doesn't doubt that Montgomery County grand jury "will indict some of us" for taking part in the 12-week-old Negro boycott of buses, Associated Press reported today.

And the young pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church also repeated the statement that boycott leaders will confer shortly to decide whether to call off the boycott.

King, 27, in Chicago for a guest sermon last Sunday, gave his views at a news conference arranged by a friend who said he wanted to "give a segment of the northern press a chance to get an unbiased account of what is going on in Montgomery."

An investigation of the boycott was urged Monday by Circuit Judge

Eugene Carter in his charge to the county grand jury. It was learned that the jury, now in session, has summoned several witnesses in connection with the boycott.

REPORT DUE THIS WEEK

The jury is expected to report late this week.

As to the nature of the boycott, King told newsmen:

"It's part of something that's happening all over the world. The oppressed peoples of the world are against colonialism, imperialism and other systems of oppression." King said that a lack of money is the reason the boycott may be called off. Negroes are paying "a lot of money" to operate car pools which have been organized to replace buses, he said.

He said litigation from a suit filed in federal court here contesting bus segregation may take a long time. "I am not sure that the people will want to continue the boycott that long."

The minister claimed that only about 10 Negroes a day ride buses in Montgomery, AP reported. He said the movement started "spontaneously" following the arrest of a Negro woman on the charge of violation of segregation laws.

SAYS PROTECTION DENIED

Referring to acts of violence in the boycott, King said:

"I'm well guarded every where I go in Montgomery, by my friends. I asked the sheriff for personal protection and that was denied."

King applied for a pistol permit at the sheriff's office two weeks ago after a small bomb was exploded at his home. Sheriff Mac Sim Butler said today the gun permit was denied, but that he had pledged to do "everything within my power" to protect him.

Police Commissioner Clyde Sellers, following the explosion at King's home, promised the Negro "complete police protection."

Last week King denied having told two newsmen the possibility of ending the boycott would be discussed at a meeting of the Montgomery Improvement Assn. After the meeting of the group, of which he is president, he would not reveal the agenda of the session, and said he had been misunderstood.

The boycott leader left Chicago for Atlanta last night. He is to return to Montgomery tonight.

**THE ALABAMA JOURNAL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
FEBRUARY 15, 1956**

**Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
Mofile 44-439
Bufile 100-135-61**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/20/83 BY spz/le/gcl

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-24

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-135-61)

DATE: 2/10/56

FROM : *H* SAS, Mobile (44-439)

UP SUBJECT: *ACON*
RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

2 Attached hereto is an item appearing in the Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, under date of 2/2/56 captioned "5 Negroes Attack Segregation Laws in Federal Court."

One copy of this newspaper item was forwarded to the Bureau by routing slip dated 2/7/56.

- ② - Bureau (Enc. 1)
- 1 - Mobile
- [redacted]* mem
- (3)

ENCLOSURE

88

EX - 121

7C

*100-135-61-25
3/22/53
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3/2/56*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY *[signature]* RECORDED - 88

EX - 121

399
63 MAR 1 - 1956

EXP. PROC.

FEB 13 1956

7C

100-135-61-25

18 FEB 13 1956



TRAVEL BARRIER CHALLENGED

A 2/2/56

5 Negroes Attack Segregation Laws In Federal Court

By **JOE AZBELL**
Advertiser City Editor

Five Montgomery Negro women yesterday filed a suit in the U.S. District Court asking that the courts declare Alabama and Montgomery transportation segregation laws unconstitutional.

The suit, entered in the court at 12:45 p.m. by Attys. Fred Gray and Charles Lutzford, was filed by Aurelia S. Browder, Susie McDonald, Jeanette Reese, Claudette Colvin by Q. P. Colvin, her father, and Mary Louise Smith by Frank Smith, her father.

Named as defendants were Mayor W. A. Gayle, Commissioner Clyde Sellers, Commissioner Frank Parks, individually and as the City Commission, Police Chief G. J. Ruppenthal, the Montgomery City Lines and bus drivers James F. Blake and Robert Cleere.

BULKY DOCUMENT

The bulky court document specifically asks:

1. A final judgment and decree that will declare and define the legal rights of the parties in the controversy.
2. A final judgment and decree that will declare Section 301, Title 48, Code of Alabama and Sections 10 and 11 of the Montgomery City Code, (ordering bus segregation), null and void.
3. A judgment and decree declaring that the acts of the defendants in seeking to compel the plaintiffs and other Negro citizens to use bus facilities by use of threats, intimidation and harassment are in violation of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
4. A judgment and decree enjoining the defendants from enforcing the state and city statutes and ordinance on grounds they are unconstitutional.

A judgment and decree to prevent the defendants from interfering with Negroes or using force, threats or other intimidation in using private transportation facilities.

DROP BARRIERS

In the event the U.S. court ruled the city and state laws unconstitutional, it would knock out separate facilities for Negroes and whites at bus and train depots and abolish segregation lines on all buses, trains, streetcars and other vehicles.

No date has been set for a hearing on the suit which was filed as a "class action" setting forth the "points of common relief" upon "common questions of law and fact" for the five Negro women and other Negro citizens living here.

The case will be heard in a three-judge court. The judges will be appointed by *James J. [unclear]* U.S. Fifth Judicial Court, *Holmes, Tex.*

The three judges will include *two circuit judges and two district court judges of the U.S. Court.*

The bill of complaint charges that Negroes have been deprived of their rights, privileges and opportunities under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and

that the defendants also violated the 14th Amendment in seeking to "compel the plaintiffs and other Negro citizens to use the bus facilities" under threats and harassment.

It specifically accuses the defendants of a "conspiracy to interfere with the civil and constitutional rights of the Negro citizens."

The conspiracy was described as a series of acts including "force, threats, violence, intimidation and harassments."

Charging that Negroes are punished when they fail to observe the regulations of the state and city laws "which violate their constitutional rights," the Negro women accuse Ruppenthal and others of "punishing a number of Negro citizens solely because of their insistence under the Constitution that they are entitled to use the Montgomery City Lines buses without being segregated."

The document states that Negroes in refraining from making use of the transportation facilities "have suffered and continue to suffer great losses and inconveniences as the result of the denial to them of their rights to use said facilities on an unsegregated basis without fear or intimidation."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY [signature]

Montgomery
Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
Front Page
2/2/56

Re: Racial
Situation, Mont-
gomery, Ala.

Bufile 100-135-61
Mofile 44-439

100-135-61-25
ENCLOSURE

COMMISSION HIT

Striking at the City Commission, the document declares that Gayle, Sellers and Parks "are now seeking to use" their office of government "to oppose" Negro citizens and that they "are seeking by threats and intimidation to deprive plaintiffs and other Negro citizens of their rights in the use and benefit of car pools and taxis and other privately operated transportation facilities."

The Negroes charge that these "acts" are intended to force the Negroes to resume the use of the buses on a segregated basis.

The suit adds:

The city commissioners "have publicly called upon and urged white employers of Negroes who are now providing them with transportation to and from work to cease doing so. The said defendants as a part of their plan of intimidation publicly announced their affiliation with the Central Alabama White Citizens Council or some similar name." They announced their "intentions to harass persons providing transportation to Negroes by causing them to be stopped and questioned and their vehicles checked and examined in detail to determine whether or not such persons might be arrested and prosecuted for minor violations of laws and ordinances which are not being enforced against white persons . . ." And that in numerous instances they have already caused Negro drivers of taxicabs and Negro drivers of other vehicles to be questioned on how they have been hauling passengers, where they work and, where they obtain their gasoline or to be otherwise harassed in various ways."

REPRISALS CHARGED

"One purpose," the document charges, "has been to obtain information for the purpose of the aforesaid questioning by the police for the purpose of bringing pressure upon employers to discharge Negro employes and otherwise subject them to economic reprisals."

They also state the Negroes de-

sire to resume the use of buses on a "non-segregated" basis without fear of arrest."

The arrests of Mary Louise Smith on Oct. 21, 1955, Rosa Parks, Dec. 1, 1955, and Claudette Colvin, March 2, 1955, were set forth with the fines of \$9 and \$14 for the Smith and Parks women respectively and probation for the Smith girl. The Smith girl is 17 and the Colvin girl is 16.

Their arrests, the suit charges, was caused by a "conspiracy" which Chief Ruppenthal entered with others in the enforcement of the state and local laws.

The Negroes asked for a "speedy hearing" and that the "cause be advanced on the docket."

BOYCOTT VIOLENCE

The suit filed yesterday came almost two months after Negroes began a boycott of the Montgomery City.

High lights of the boycott have been shots fired at the buses in Negro sections, and the bombing of the home of the Rev. M. L. King, boycott leader, Monday night.

Since Dec. 5, Negroes have not ridden the city buses. Several meetings have been held at various churches by Negroes in connection with the boycott.

About two weeks ago, Mayor W. A. Gayle said that the City Commission had attempted to end the boycott but that "Negroes did not want better bus service." He said that "what Negroes want is integration" and that "we do not believe the majority of the white people in Montgomery care whether Negroes ever ride the buses again."

A clause also was placed in a new bus franchise that states the City Commission can discontinue bus service if it becomes necessary.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-135-61)

DATE: 2/22/56

Hw
FROM : SAC, MOBILE (44-439)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

mb
RAACON
ReMotel to Bureau, 2/21/56.

Herewith enclosed for the Bureau are two copies of each of the following newspaper clippings which may be of interest:

"NEGRO ATTORNEY ARRESTED FOR UNLAWFUL PRACTICE."
Alabama Journal, February 18, 1956, page one. This article reflects that FRED DAVID GRAY, attorney and "top legal voice in the Montgomery bus boycott cases," was arrested on a Grand Jury indictment charging him with unlawfully appearing as an attorney for a person without being employed by that person, in violation of Title 46, Section 55, Alabama State Code of 1940. The crime is a misdemeanor. *ALA*

"BOYCOTT LEADERS REJECT COMPROMISE PROPOSALS",
Montgomery Advertiser, February 21, 1956, page one. This article mentions that a Grand Jury report today may bring indictments against many participants in the bus boycott movement, and states that Negro leaders on February 20, 1956 rejected a compromise proposal for ending the "racial" bus boycott. This article also summarizes several aspects of the racial situation at Montgomery. *ALA*

ENCLOSURE

2 - Bureau (100-135-61) (Encl. 4) (AIRMAIL)
1 - Mobile (44-439)

bjw
137

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3 cef/cl

RECORDED-89

INDEXED-89

100-135-61-26

FEB 23 1956

EX-125

7C

EXP. PROC. 39

*Legend to Simpson
by 0-6
2-24-56
MAR 1 - 1956*

Negro Attorney Arrested For Unlawful Practice

Fine Of \$500 Faced By Gray On Indictment

Federal Court Suit
To End Segregation
On Buses Involved

By BUNNY HONICKER
Negro Atty. Fred David Gray, the top legal voice in the Montgomery bus boycott cases, was arrested today on a grand jury indictment charging him with "unlawfully appearing as an attorney" for a person without being employed by that person.

The 25-year-old lawyer was charged specifically with representing Jeaneatta Reese of 1454 S. Holt St., an elderly Negro housemaid, in a suit filed in federal court to end segregated travel, without being employed by the woman.

Gray was arrested by Montgomery County Sheriff's Deputies Greer Lifford and James Yarrough and booked at county jail at 10:55 a.m. He was then "mugged" and fingerprinted by Deputy Allen A. Poindexter.

Asked for comment, Gray shook his head and said he had none.

FACES \$500 CHARGE

The grand jury, which released a partial report yesterday, charged Gray with violating Title 46, Section 55, Alabama State Code of 1940, a misdemeanor.

This section reads: "Attorney Appearing Without Authority—Any attorney appearing for a person without being employed must, on conviction, be fined not less than \$500, and shall be incompetent in any court of this state."

The 1953 supplement of Section 55 reads: "Word 'appearing' is not limited to representation of a defendant, but includes also a plaintiff."

Gray was held in custody for approximately half an hour and then released under \$300 bond.

Witnesses, other than Jeaneatta Reese, listed on the indictment were Q. P. Colvin, 622 E. Dixie Dr., and O. D. Street, clerk of the U. S. District Court.

Earlier, Gray and Negro Atty. Charles Langford filed a suit in U. S. District Court seeking to abolish segregated travel on public conveniences in Alabama.

Plaintiffs were listed as Jeaneatta Reese, Aurelia S. Browder, Susie McDonald and Claudette Colvin by her next friend, Q. P. Colvin.

The grand jury charged that Gray did "unlawfully and knowingly appear as attorney for Jeaneatta Reese . . . all without" (See GRAY, Page 8-A)

Alabama Journal
Montgomery, Alabama
Date 2-18-56
Page 1

Re: *RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALA.*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY SP3 clc/jce

ENCLOSURE

100-13561-26



BUS BOYCOTT LAWYER AWAITS BOND

Negro Atty. Fred David Gray stares moodily out the window in the front office of the county jail today as he awaits someone to come bail him out on a charge of representing a person without having been employed by that person. He later was released under \$300 bond.

Gray

(Continued From Page 1-A)

authority from Jeanetta Reese and without being employed to do so" by the woman.

ASKS TO WITHDRAW

The day after the suit was filed, the woman appeared in the office of Mayor W. A. Gayle and in the presence of this reporter and the mayor made a statement to the effect that she didn't realize what she was signing when she signed her name to the suit. She then said she wanted to withdraw her name.

Gray denied the woman's statement and said that "she knew perfectly well what she was signing."

Gray, who received his law degree from Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and who is a member of the Alabama Bar Assn., had been classified as 4-D by his draft board from 1948 until this month upon his claim that he was a "practicing minister." This month, his board classified him 1-A.

EYE OF JURY REPORT

**Boycott Leaders Reject
Compromise Proposals**

On the eve of a grand jury report that may bring indictments against many participants in the protest movement, Negro leaders last night rejected a compromise plan for ending the racial bus boycott here.

Terms agreed to yesterday by the Montgomery City Commission and the boycott-plagued bus company were turned down flatly by Negroes at a mass meeting called

to consider the compromise proposal.

The Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, chairman of the negotiating committee and pastor of the Negro First Baptist Church, gave the vote against accepting the proposal as 3,988 to 2.

The grand jury has been investigating the mass protest against segregation and is expected to make a final report today. Indictments are expected against some of the Negroes who have participated in the wholesale refusal to ride Montgomery City Lines buses.

Several men prominently identified with efforts to settle the boycott conferred in the office of Mayor W. A. Gayle yesterday morning. Although they declined to comment, it was learned they agreed to the compromise plan submitted to the Negroes last night.

They included all three members of the City Commission, representatives of the bus company and spokesmen for the Men of Montgomery, a civic organization which volunteered to act as mediator in the 11-week-old dispute.

The mass meeting at a Negro Methodist church was closed to newsmen. But it was announced later that the compromise had been voted down.

The seating arrangement offered in the compromise was similar to the plan rejected by boycott leaders in previous attempts to end the protest movement.

Drawn up within the frame-
(See BOYCOTT, Page 2A)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/23/83 BY [signature]

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Alabama
Date 2-21-56
Page 1

Re: *RACIAL SITUATION
Montgomery, Ala.*

100-135-61-26

ENCLOSURE

Boycott Leaders Reject Compromise

work of existing (segregation) laws, it called for the first 10 seats in the front of buses to be reserved for white persons and the last 10 seats for Negroes. Remain-

(Continued From Page 1)

ing seats in the center would be occupied from the front to the rear by whites and from the rear toward the front by Negroes.

In addition, the bus driver would have had authority to assign seats in the unreserved section to members of either race "whenever the condition exists that there is no probability of any additional white passengers boarding a bus, or any

colored passengers as the case may be."

Other plans in the compromise included courtesy from bus drivers "guaranteed all patrons," and special buses solely for members of each race during peak hours.

In addition, it said "colored citizens are assured by the city commissioners that there will be no retaliation whatsoever resulting from the bus boycott."

In a prepared statement following the meeting, the Rev. Abernathy said Negroes would gain practically no concessions under the compromise proposal and "would have to return to the buses with increased rates besides. (Bus fares have been raised from 10 cents to 15 cents since the boycott started.)

"We have walked for 11 weeks in the cold and rain," the Negro minister said. "Now the weather is warming up. Therefore, we will walk on until some better proposals are forthcoming from our city fathers."

The Rev. Abernathy said, "The protest is still on, and approximately 50,000 Negroes have stated that they will continue to walk.

The minister's statement recalled that the original request of the Negroes asked for "courtesy" from bus drivers; the "first come, first served" seating arrangement on buses, and the employment of Negro drivers on bus routes serving predominantly Negro areas.

Two city detectives disclosed meanwhile that they have been assigned to the circuit solicitor's office for several weeks investigating the boycott. Detectives

K. W. Jones and Jack D. Shows were among the scores of witnesses interviewed by the grand jury in the past week.

But they were prohibited by law from disclosing their testimony.

The grand jury which has already indicted one boycott spokesman, Negro Atty. Fred D. Gray, may return other true bills charging violation of Alabama's rarely used anti-boycott law.

Gray was charged with unlawful practice because of a suit he filed in U.S. District Court seeking to throw out city and state laws requiring racial segregation in all public transportation. The suit was an outgrowth of the boycott.

The attorney's indictment was based on the statement of Jeanetta Reese, one of the five Negro women whose names were signed to the court petition. The Reese woman told Mayor Gayle in the presence of two newspaper reporters that she didn't know what she was signing.

Gray was charged with filing the suit in the woman's name without her consent, an offense punishable in Alabama by a \$500 fine and suspension from practice.

The boycott began Dec. 5, after a Negro woman, Rosa Parks, was arrested and fined \$14 for refusing to move to the colored section of a bus.

Since then, an estimated 75 per cent of the Negroes who normally used the buses for transportation have refused to ride them. Some have used taxicabs to get to and from work; others have depended on a highly organized car pool operating with military precision.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 21 1956

TELETYPE

FBI, MOBILE

2-21-56

6-37 PM

DIRECTOR, FBI

... U R G E N T ...

RACON

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Boardman
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Mason
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Parsons
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Holloman
- Miss Gandy

RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA. REBUTEL TODAY.
 STATE GRAND JURY, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, ACCORDING TO PRESS
 REPORTS, EXPECTED TO COMPLETE TODAY INVESTIGATION RELATING
 TO BUS BOYCOTT. NEWS REPORT REFLECTS ONE INDICTMENT
 AGAINST ATTORNEY FRED D. GRAY RETURNED SEVENTEENTH INSTANT
 CHARGING GRAY UNLAWFUL PRACTICE BECAUSE OF SUIT HE FILED
 IN USDC, MONTGOMERY, SEEKING TO THROW OUT LAWS REQUIRING
 SEGREGATION IN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. ONE OF WOMEN IN
 WHOSE NAME HE FILED SUIT HAS DENIED KNOWING SHE KNEW WHAT
 SHE WAS SIGNING. NEWS RELEASES CONCERNING GRAY-S
 INDICTMENT BEING FORWARDED BUREAU. BUREAU WILL BE
 IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED OF ANY INDICTMENTS BY GJ AS SOON AS
 GJ REPORT IS RELEASED.

HALLFORD

RECORDED - 76

17 FEB 28 1956

52 MAR 2 1956

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY [signature]

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W. H. [unclear]
FEB 21 1 35 61 PM '56

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FEB 23 11 11 AM '56

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 21 1956

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mason	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

FBI, MOBILE

2-21-56

6-40 PM

NPO

DIRECTOR, FBI

... U R G E N T ...

RACON

RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA. REMOTEL TODAY.

INFORMATION JUST RECEIVED FROM [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT GJ HAS SUBMITTED REPORT. RETURNED ELEVEN INDICTMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH BUS BOYCOTT NAMING ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DEFENDANTS. NAMES WITHHELD PENDING ARRESTS. WARRANTS BEING DRAWN UP AT PRESENT TIME AND ARRESTS TO BEGIN TOMORROW. BUREAU WILL BE KEPT INFORMED.

7C
7D

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY [signature]

H A L L F O R D

END AND ACK FOR THREE TELS

WA SSSS7-42 PM OK FBI WA BLV.

REC 3

TU

399
MAR 2

Mr. Belmont

MR. BELMONT
AND SUPERVISOR
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

RECORDED - 76

EX - 108

100-135-61-28

13 FEB 28 1956

7C

5- [signature]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

FEB 22 1956

TELETYPE

DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3cl/pc

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Boardman
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Mason
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Parsons
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Winterrowd
- Mr. Holloman
- Miss Gandy

FBI, MOBILE 2-22-56 2-50 PM

DIRECTOR, FBI
RACON URGENT Re mobile teletype
RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA. REMOTEL TO BUREAU

FEB. TWENTYONE, LAST. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ADVISED TODAY THAT MONTGOMERY COUNTY GRAND JURY GJ RETURNED ELEVEN TRUE BILLS ON FEB. TWENTYONE, LAST, CHARGING ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN DEFENDANTS WITH VIOLATION OF ALA. BOYCOTT LAW, NOT ONE HUNDRED FIFTY AS STATED IN RE TEL. HE ADVISED THAT ARRESTS BEGAN TODAY BY SHERIFF-S OFFICERS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND THAT PERSONS ARRESTED UNDER ABOVE INDICTMENTS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING THUS FAR.- DR. S. S. CASEY, EXEC.

SECTY., HOME MISSIONS BOARD, AME ZION CHURCH OF WORLD., E. D. NIXON, FORMER STATE PRESIDENT, NAACP., REV. W. J. POWELL., REV. A. W. WILSON, PASTOR, HOLT ST. BAPTIST CHURCH., REV. JOSEPH H. CHERRY., REV. R. D. ABERNATHY, PASTOR, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH., REV. R. JAMES GLASCO, DIRECTOR, ALA. NEGRO BAPTIST CENTER

RECEIVED
REV. AARON HOFFMAN. PASTOR, SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH., RUFUS LEWIS, HOFFMAN, PASTOR, SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH., RUFUS LEWIS, PRESIDENT, CITIZENS CLUB, MONTGOMERY., JOSHUA WILLIAM HAYES, AME ZION CHURCH., REV. W. P. HAYES., JO ANN ROBINSON, PRESIDENT WOMEN-S POLITICAL CIRCLE.,

END PAGE ONE ...
66 MAR 5 1956 230
Mr. Rosen Mr. Belmont

RECORDED - 76
INDEXED - 76
FEB 22 1956
EX-107

ALA.

Spencer
Hunt

RECEIVED
FEB 22 1956
FBI - MOBILE

5-100

PAGE TWO ...

LOCAL NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS BEING FORWARDED AS THEY
APPEAR. SOURCES OF INFORMATION, MONTGOMERY, COULD
FURNISH NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. BILLY THETFORD, CIRCUIT
SOLICITOR AND FORMER BUREAU AGENT, STATED NO VIOLENCE
HAS OCCURRED OR IS EXPECTED CONNECTION WITH ARRESTS.

H A L L F O R D

END AND ~~OK~~ PLS

LN FIFTEEN IS DUPLICATED OK

3:42 PM OK FBI WA EW

TOM S O

OC: MR. ROSEN
AND SUPERVISOR
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

OC: MR. BELMONT
AND SUPERVISOR
TOM INTEL DIVISION

66855 8 0:51:20

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. L. V. BOARDMAN *LB*

DATE: 2/23/56

FROM : A. ROSEN *f*

Call 5:48 p.m. *Adler*

SUBJECT:

RACON - Mobile

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

Mr. Warren Olney called and stated he would be obliged if either he or Caldwell was kept advised of any of the developments tonight by telephone regarding the Montgomery, Alabama, situation, which should be brought to his attention. He stated he assumed that we might be getting reports from our office concerning the matter.

I advised him that any items would be brought to his attention as we have in the past.

He is referring to the situation in Montgomery, Alabama, involving the bus boycott on the part of Negroes. It is noted that 115 individuals were indicted under Alabama State law for engaging unlawfully in boycotting. This whole situation arose when the buses refused to recognize the request that the seats be made available on a first-come first-serve basis regardless of color.

ACTION TAKEN

In view of the fact that this racial situation is one being followed by Mr. Belmont's Division, I have personally called them on this matter and alerted them to Olney's comment.

RECORDED-9 100-135-4-30

7 FEB 28 1956

cc - Mr. Belmont
Mr. Nichols

AR:WW
(8)

EX-121

Handwritten initials and a large blacked-out redaction mark.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY Sp3 clj/fcl

52 MAR 2 1956

Boardman
Belmont

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 29, 1956

SAC, Mobile

RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY [signature]

Re Detroit airtel February 24, 1956, captioned
"Racon" in which information was set forth

mobile

7C
7D

You are instructed to ascertain through established
sources [redacted] activities [redacted]
This information should be furnished the Bureau and New York
and Detroit Offices promptly.

7C
7D

HOOVER

Bufile 100-135-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY [signature]

MAILED 8
FEB 29 1956
COMM-FBI

Classified by [signature]
Declassify on: OADR 3/22/83

RECORDED-35

27 MAR 1 1956

7C

EX - 108

Enclosure to memo from Belmont to Boardman, dated 2/29/56,
same caption, [redacted] gft.

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

59 MAR 6 1956

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECEIVED READING ROOM
F B I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FEB 29 6 29 PM '56

[signature]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI
FROM : SAC Mobile
SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DATE: 2/24/56

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3cljcd

Remytel to Bureau 2/22/56.

As of possible further interest to the Bureau, I am transmitting herewith two copies each of the following newspaper items:

1. Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, dated 2/22/56 captioned "5 NEGRO LEADERS AMONG FIRST BROUGHT TO JAIL BY DEPUTIES."
2. Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, dated 2/22/56 captioned "DEPUTIES BEGINNING ROUNDUP FOR 115 CHARGED IN BOYCOTT."
3. Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, dated 2/22/56 captioned "TEXT OF JURY'S REPORT ON BUS BOYCOTT PROBE."
4. Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, dated 2/22/56, captioned "MAYOR BLOCKS FUTURE TALKS ABOUT BOYCOTT."
5. Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, dated 2/23/56 captioned "REV. KING AND 88 OTHERS BOOKED ON BOYCOTT WRITS."
6. Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, dated 2/23/56 captioned "BUS LINE FILES REPLY IN SUIT."
7. Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, dated 2/23/56 captioned "PILGRIMAGE DAY SET BY NEGROES."
8. Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, dated 2/23/56 captioned "BOYCOTT AIDES EXPLAIN STAND."

EXP. PROC.

2 - Bureau (Encls. 15) (100-135-61)(AM)
1 - Mobile (44-439)

vlw

7C

1cc original to
Sampkins by 0-6
2-28-56
MGM:al

1 photo incl. by 8-6
to Sampkins
2-29-56
MGM:al

RECORDED - 94
INDEXED - 94

100-135-61-32
3-1
14 FEB 27 1956

50 MAR 7 1956
164

7C

[Redacted stamp]

GENCO WILLIS CARR.

Bus Line Files Reply In Suit

Complying With Law, Company Says

An answer to the federal suit that travel segregation be abolished in Montgomery and Alabama was filed by the Montgomery City Bus Lines this morning in U. S. District Court.

The bus lines contended that its actions and issuance of rules, regulations and orders by it to the drivers has been solely for the purpose of complying with the requirements of the laws of Alabama, ordinances of the city and the requirements of its franchise.

The suit aimed at ending segregated travel on public conveyances was filed by an attorney for five Negroes in U. S. District Court here Feb. 1.

DENY CONSPIRACY

Two bus drivers — also defendants in the suit — declared in a separate answer that they deny that they individually are seeking to enforce any rules and regulations other than under orders from their employer, the bus lines. The two drivers are James F. Blake, and Robert Cleere.

The bus lines further stated in their answer that they deny they have conspired with anyone to commit any unlawful or illegal act.

They also denied the charge that the Montgomery Bus Lines has an exclusive franchise.

Yesterday city attorneys filed a motion to dismiss the federal suit.

The defendants in the suit are the Montgomery City Commission, Police Chief G. J. Ruppenthal, Montgomery City Bus Lines, and the two bus drivers.

Pilgrimage Day Set By Negroes

Prayer Meeting To Be Held Tonight

Emphasizing their determination in the face of more than 75 arrests for illegal boycotting, Negro boycott leaders proclaimed tomorrow "Prayer-Pilgrimage Day," and indicated Negroes might converge on the county courthouse while the defendants are being arraigned.

Rev. R. D. Abernathy, pastor of the Negro First Baptist Church and head of the bus boycotters' negotiating committee, said he expected "at least 10,000" persons to attend a prayer meeting at his church tonight.

He said it would probably be decided at tonight's meeting whether the Negroes would gather at the courthouse.

TO WALK TOMORROW

Announcing the prayer-pilgrimage day, Abernathy said every "race-loving" Negro will shun all motor vehicles tomorrow and walk every where they go.

Seventy-three Negroes were taken into custody yesterday on indictments charging illegal boycotting issued Tuesday by the Montgomery County Grand Jury.

Abernathy, one of those arrested, said in a statement last night that "Negroes are not on trial here. But Montgomery is on trial."

"It is an American's right to protest against undemocratic and inhuman practices," Abernathy continued. "Yet because we are Negroes, the grand jury has indicted us."

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DATE 3/22/53 BY [signature]

Alabama Journal
Montgomery, Alabama
Date 2-23-56
Page 1

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALA.

Mofile 44-439
Bufile 100-135-61

100-135-61-32

ENCLOSURE

Boycott Aides Explain Stand Arrested Leaders Accorded Support

By JO ANNE LUCCI

After watching for several hours while the accused leaders of the Negro bus boycott were brought into the county jail yesterday, one of the group of Negro spectators approached this reporter and asked to make a statement.

"I just want to say I never intend to ride the buses any more," Idessa Williams said.

Her comment started a chain reaction among her companions. Soon all were anxious to "tell the reporter how we feel."

"All the men that were pulled in this morning were only speaking for 50,000 Negroes. The people are responsible," Odalliah Gardner said, referring to the protest against the bus line.

"We're not going to ride the buses. We'll go on walking until our feet drop off," said Willie Hazley.

RESENTMENT SHOWN

The group of Negroes expressed resentment over the press using the word "boycott." They said it was a "newspaper word," and their actions were "protest."

Several of them loudly claimed the Negroes had only "love and peace" in their hearts and had no intention of using violence in their "protest."

One of them, Inez Ricks, blamed the "mean talk" of bus drivers for the trouble.

"I don't intend to ride the bus again under conditions as they are now," she said. She also emphasized her belief that "it's not the preachers" who were to blame in the boycott.

At this point a Negro man who identified himself as a reporter and said he represented the Manchester (England) Guardian and LaFigaro of France, took over.

"Once this bus trouble is over, do you think the Negroes will stick together in other things?" he asked.

"Yes, yes," shouted the crowd. "You want the people in Europe to know what's going on over here, don't you?" he asked.

"No, we're only interested in conditions in this country," one of the spectators said.

"But you do want them to know about this, don't you," he asked again.

"Yes, but just say we have no comment," one of the crowd replied.

As the noise increased and the crowd gathered in the center of the sidewalk, Sheriff Mac Sim Butler came out and broke the "press conference" up in order to clear the sidewalk.

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Page 2A

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALA.

Mofile 44-439
Bufile 100-135-61

100-135-61-32
ENCLOSURE

Rev. King And 88 Others Booked On Boycott Writs

Officers Near End Of Arrests On Indictments

Negro Minister Surrenders Self At County Jail

Two additional Negro men had been booked by 1 p.m., bringing the total to 88. They were Fred Morris 26, 573 N. Union St. and George H. Jordan, 30, 1837 Dixie Ct.

By BUNNY HONICKER AND JOE JONES

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., leading spokesman in the Negro bus boycott, surrendered himself at county jail today on a grand jury indictment and briefly assumed the role of simply prisoner No 7069.

King, who was accompanied to the jail by his father, Rev. M. L. King Sr. of Atlanta, was the 24th Negro minister to be arrested on charges of participating in an illegal boycott growing out of the arrest of a 42-year-old Negro seamstress accused of violating a state segregation law on a city bus.

BOOKED TODAY

Booked today, according to records in the office of the circuit clerk, were:

The Rev. M. L. King Jr., H. H. Johnson, P. Conley, Eddie Bradford, Arthur Bibbin, Edward M. Williams, Calvin Varner, Mose W. Richberg, Louis Boswell, Eddie Lee Posey, John Green Hill, Lonnie C. Walker, Henry A. McLain and R. B. Bronson.

In another development today, boycott leaders said they expect 10,000 to attend a prayer meeting tonight to kickoff tomorrow's observance of "Prayer-Pilgrimage Day." It was also indicated Negroes may converge on the county courthouse tomorrow while boycott defendants are being arraigned.

Negro attorney Fred D. Gray, himself under indictment on a charge of unlawful practice growing out of the boycott, said most of the bonds in the mass arrests have been put up by Negro property owners.

Gray was charged with filing an antibus segregation suit in U.S. District Court without the consent of one of the five Negro women whose names appeared on the complaint.

CONFER WITH THETFORD

Gray and four other Negro attorneys including Arthur D. Shores of Birmingham conferred with Circuit Solicitor William F. Thetford today, but neither the Negroes nor the solicitor would discuss the nature of the talks.

They said merely they had to do with the scheduled arrangement of the boycott defendants tomorrow.

Shores, who has represented Autherine Lucy in the Negro coed's fight for admittance to the University of Alabama, said "several" of the boycott defendants had retained him to represent them.

He said no financial help was expected from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in fighting the bus indictments, but that the NAACP might provide "legal research."

87 PERSONS BOOKED

Sheriff Mac Sim Butler said this morning that 87 persons have now been arrested on the grand jury indictments, leaving only "a few more to be picked up."

Butler explained that a number of the 115 indictments returned by the grand jury Tuesday were "duplications" and the total number of defendants was expected to be under 90.

Also accompanying King to jail this morning were Dr. W. H. Petrus, a Montgomery physician, and Dr. Willis Wood, a local dentist. (See BOYCOTT, Page 2-A)

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Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALA.

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ENCLOSURE

Boycott

(Continue From Page 1)
who signed King's \$300 bond. The 27-year-old pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church for Negroes will be arraigned in Circuit Court at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

ARRANGES BAIL

After being "mugged" and fingerprinted by City Police Lt. D. H. Lackey, King arranged for his bail and only then asked, "What are the charges?"

He was informed that he was charged with violating Title 14, Section 54 of the Alabama State Code. Deputies told the boycott spokesmen they were not familiar with the specific reading of the law.

Passed in 1921 to prevent labor boycotts, the law in question makes it illegal for "two or more persons who, without a just cause or legal excuse . . . enter into any combination, conspiracy . . . for the purpose of hindering, delaying, or preventing any other persons, firms, corporation, or association of persons from carrying on any lawful business, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

ROSA PARKS DOCKETED

Those arrested yesterday included Rosa Parks, who was taken into custody on the Boycott indictment soon after leaving Circuit Court, where she had been sentenced to 14 days in jail for refusing to pay a fine in the case which touched off the racial protest movement.

A seamstress, she appealed a \$14 fine levied in City Court Dec. 5 for refusing to move to the back of a bus. That appeal was turned down yesterday by Circuit Judge Eugene Carter and she was sentenced to 14 days in jail.

She then appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court and was released under \$100 bond, only to be picked up immediately on the boycotting charge and freed again under \$300 bond.

Prominent Negroes arrested included E. D. Nixon, former state president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and president of the Montgomery Progressive Democratic Association; Jo Ann Robinson, teacher at Alabama State College for Negroes and head of the Women's Political Council; and P. M. Blair, the "official Negro mayor" of Montgomery.

FOLSOM INVITES NEWSMEN

Meanwhile, Alabama newspaper editors and publishers were invited by Gov. James E. Folsom to a conference in his office here Friday on racial problems.

In other developments, the city filed motion to dismiss a U. S. District Court suit which seeks to declare Alabama's laws requiring segregated travel unconstitutional. And the Negro attorney who filed the suit, 25-year-old Fred D. Gray, lost an appeal from a draft board ruling reclassifying him I-A. Gray, a bachelor, had been deferred from military service since 1948 as assistant pastor of a Negro church, but was reclassified three days after the suit was filed.

At Washington, Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, national director of Selective Service, said he has been kept informed by the state board of Gray's status. But he declined to indicate how he might rule if a protest is made to him.

Gray was indicted by the grand jury last Friday for unlawful practice after one of the five Negro women whose name appeared on the anti-segregation suit told Mayor W. A. Gayle later that she had not consented to join in the action.

LEWIS NOT ARRESTED

One Negro political figure, Rufus Lewis, who is president of the Citizen's Club, voter organization, was brought in for arrest erroneously yesterday. Lewis was released at the jail after it was discovered that he was not indicted, despite the fact that his name appeared on the four-page list of defendants.

The Rev. L. R. Bennett, one of the ministers arrested yesterday, said he was one of the two people (the other being his church assistant) who voted to end the boycott in Monday night's mass meeting at which a compromise was proposed and rejected overwhelmingly. Upon arrest, he said: "I believe in the will of the majority and I will stand with my people throughout this protest—despite my own opinion."

The names, ages, addresses and occupations of those arrested yesterday include:

Jimmie Gamble, 24, Maxwell Air Force Base warehouseman, 645 Bullock St.

Arthur Murphy, 55, pastor, Oak Street AMEZ Church, address not given.

Otis Carleton, 27, Air Force truck driver, 407 Wade St.

Booker T. Holmes, 25, Air Force supply sergeant at Maxwell AFB, 2206 Edgemont St.

Walter Moses, 47, 1112 Pelham St., Nelson Construction Co. employe.

The Rev. B. J. Simms, 51, 3356 Tuskegee Circle, pastor, St. Marks Baptist Church.

Osborne Chambliss, 45, 1145 E. Decatur St., U. S. mail carrier.

Irene West, 65, 729 S. Jackson St., treasurer, Order of Eastern Star and mother of an Air Force major.

Jo Ann Robinson, 29, instructress, Alabama State College for Negroes, 1413 Tarriet St.

Mose Bishop, 44, 886 Erskine St., Veterans Hospital employe.

C. W. Lee, 62, 686 Jeff Davis, owner, Lee's Funeral Home.

The Rev. John W. Hayes, 42, presiding elder, West Montgomery District of the AMEZ Church, 635 Columbus St.

The Rev. W. F. Alford, 40, pastor, Beulah Baptist Church, 623 S. Union St.

Robert Johnson, 62, 1452 Bragg St., Butler and Carr cement mason.

EH Judkins, 45, 2042 Lincoln Ter-

race, Durr Drug Co. employe.

The Rev. A. W. Wilson, 53, 847 W. Jeff Davis, pastor, Holt St. Baptist Church.

Thomas Gray, brother of Attorney Fred Gray, 3251 Mobile Dr., employe of Dozier Radio Service, age not given.

The Rev. J. H. Cherry, 52, 513 N. Ripley, pastor, Snowdown Little Zion and Ramer Seek and Follow Churches.

The Rev. Siveria Heard, 57, 915 Adeline, pastor, Bryant Street Baptist Church.

Isiah Ferguson, 48, 1155 Bragg St., operator of auto repair shop at his home.

Frank Powell Jr., 31, 1834 Jackson Ferry Rd., employe of Jenkins Brick Co.

The Rev. H. J. Palmer, 53, 3436 Homeview, pastor, Rock Elou Baptist Church.

The Rev. S. S. Seay, 57, Rt. 5, Madison Park, pastor, Rogers Chapel AME.

Alberta James, 48, unemployed, 1503 S. Hall St.

The Rev. W. J. Powell, 47, 120 Mildred St., pastor, Old Ship Methodist Church.

Walter Smith, 58, 344 Woodrow, agent, Fuller Cosmetics Co.

The Rev. H. H. Hubbard, 52, 1110 Mobile Rd., pastor, Bethel Baptist Church.

Addie James Harvester, 25, housewife, 841 Alexander St.

The Rev. L. R. Bennett, 53, pastor, Mt. Zion AMEZ Church, 721 S. Holt St.

E. D. Nixon, 56, 647 Clinton St., employe of Pullman Co.

The Rev. A. H. Hoffman, 42, 801 N. Union Circle, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church.

King Pleads Guilty To Speeding Charge

Rev. M. L. King Jr., who appealed a \$10-and-costs speeding fine from Recorder's Court last month, agreed through his attorney to waive jury trial in Circuit Court today, plead guilty and pay a fine of \$5 and costs.

The original fine was \$10 plus \$4 court costs. Although the fine was cut in half today upon agreement with Negro Atty. Charles D. Langford, circuit court costs sent the total amount up to \$25.70.

The Rev. R. James Glasco, 715 Dorsey St., director, Alabama Negro Baptist Center, age not given.

The Rev. R. D. Abernathy, 29, 1827 S. Hall St., pastor, First Baptist Church.

Cora McHaney, 56, teacher, Carver High School, 1507 Tuttle.

A. McHaney, 54, manager Atlanta Life Insurance Co., 1507 Tuttle St.

Rosa Parks, 43, seamstress, 634 Cleveland Ave.

Martha L. Johnson, 24, student at Alabama State College for Negroes, 1618 Pineleaf St.

The Rev. Fred L. Davis, 41, 1601 Highland Ave., pastor of Triumph Holiness Church.

J. E. Pierce, 41, 830 Carter Hill Rd., professor of political science Alabama State College for Negroes.

The Rev. J. W. Bonner, 59, 716 Gray St., pastor of First Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.

Ronald Young, 26, 3301 Rountree, teacher, St. Jude Catholic Institution.

Dr. Moses Jones, physician, 42, 544 Maggie St.

George Henderson, 48, porter at West Boylston Manufacturing Co., Boylston.

The Rev. B. M. Averhart, 45, 523 Wheeler St., pastor of the Love and Peace Baptist Church.

Wesley S. Tolbert, 63, unemployed, 1421 S. Hall St.

The Rev. Simon Peter McBride, 45, 722 Clinton St., pastor of Mt. Pleasant, Pine Level, LeGrand and Lime Creek churches.

E. H. Ligon, 41, mail carrier, 885 E. Grove St.

Charlie Polk Jr., 23, Prattville, employe at Hartley Boiler Works.

P. M. Blair, 54, 1316 Hall St., owner, Blair Dry Cleaners.

Dr. M. C. Cleveland, 72, pastor of Day Street Baptist Church.

Ida Mae Caldwell, 34, 707 Bullock St., employe at Reliance Manufacturing Co.

J. C. Smith, 25, 1616 Tuttle St., employe of Hazel-Atlas Glass Co.

William J. Broughton, 51, 1120 Broughton, cement finisher.

The Rev. E. N. French, 24, pastor of Hilliard Chapel AMEZ Church, 17 Winnie St.

Lottie Varner, 37, 819 Cleveland, owner, Lottie's Beauty Shop.

Audrey Belle Langford, 28, 818 E. Grove, teacher, Montgomery Board of Education.

Frank Taylor, 28, 3200 Mobile Rd., employe of Sonbeam Cleaners.

Tom Parks, 32, 2032 Winfield, employe of Swift Packing Co.

Mathew Kennedy, 66, 717 Chilton St. World War I pensioner.

The Rev. B. D. Lambert, 39, 724 High St., pastor, Maggie Street Baptist Church.

J. H. Baker, 30, 808 Seay St., employe, Atlantic Life Insurance Co.

Sam Barnett, 45, Pike Rd., Central of Georgia employe.

John H. Garrison, 46, 1550 S. Holt St., Andrews and Dawson employe.

J. N. King, 52, General Services Administration (U. S. government), 518 S. Jackson St.

Henry Williams, 49, 1826 S. Decatur, J. W. Wells Lumber Co.

Jimmie Lowe, 45, owner Lowe's Adult High School for Negroes, 849 Cleveland.

Eretta F. Adair, 59, wife of Dr. Roman Adair, 416 S. Union.

Jimmie R. McClain, 25, laborer, 1122 Ave. L.

Rev. R. W. Hilson, 43, pastor, St. John's AME Church, 807 Madison Ave.

R. B. Binion, 50, president, Capitol Life Insurance Co., 628 Underwood St.

Willie James Kemp, age unknown, plasterer, 1522 S. Holt St.

Lollie Boswell, age unknown, widow, 318 Mochan St.

George Hill, age unknown, employe, Capitol City Laundry, 1255 Mobile Rd.



BOYCOTT LEADER BOOKED

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. (right), a Negro minister whose home was bombed while he was leading the Negro bus boycott in Montgomery, was booked today by city police Lt. D. M. Lackey (left). Another Negro leader, Rev. R. D. Abernathy (center), accompanied King. He was arrested yesterday. They were arrested on indictments returned by the Grand Jury in the bus boycott.—(AP Photo.)

TEXT OF JURY'S REPORT ON BUS BOYCOTT PROBE

"In accordance with Your Honor's charge, this grand jury has conducted an extensive investigation into the local bus situation. We find that there has been an illegal boycott existing in this county since the early part of December, 1955. Indictments have been returned where guilt was shown.

"We find that the bus boycott originated on Dec. 5, 1955, with 18 members of the Interdenominational Alliance, most of all of whom are Negro ministers. They created the Montgomery Improvement Association, elected its officers, created its executive board and set up its committees. This association has financed the bus boycott to the extent of some \$18,000.

"The grand jury finds that there is a growing tension between the races in this community; the bus boycott is but one manifestation of this feeling. Distrust, dislike and hatred are being taught in a community which for more than a generation has enjoyed exemplary race relations. Small incidents have been magnified out of their true importance and ugly rumors are being spread among both races. It is axiomatic that distrust produces distrust and hate breeds hate.

"It is the feeling of this grand jury that if we continue on our present course of race relations, violence is inevitable. The leaders of both races are urged to take a long and thoughtful look into the future.

"Our segregation laws and the NAACP attack on segregation are the primary cause of the unrest and increasing tension between whites and Negroes in Montgomery. In this state we are committed to segregation by custom and by law; we intend to maintain it. The settlement of differences over school attendance, public transportation and other public facilities must be made within those laws which reflect our way of life. During the past hundred years, no racial group has progressed so rapidly as the Negro, and no minority group has received so much in material aid and encouragement as the Negro. All of us recognize that change and progress are inevitable; however, every part of the country and every racial group must approach its own unique problems with the determination to face facts and make decisions which are in the best interest of all, now and in the years to come.

"The grand jury would like to take this opportunity to commend William F. Thetford, the solicitor, and his staff for their excellent help through the entire week.

"We would also like to thank the sheriff, the balliff, the police of Montgomery and the state and county officers for their efficient services. We would particularly like to commend City Detectives K. W. Jones and Jack Shows for their services to this grand jury.

"And now, having completed investigation of all cases brought before us, we ask to be recessed according to law and rules of this court."

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Montgomery, Alabama
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Re: **RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALA.**

Mofile 44-439
Bufile 100-135-61

100-135-61-32

Deputies Beginning Roundup For 115 Charged In Boycott

Indictment Sets Record Montgomery County Jury

County deputies will begin rounding up today on charges of participating in the boycott against the Montgomery City Lines here. The roundup will result from indictments returned by the Montgomery County grand jury which reported yesterday violence is inevitable if race relations do not improve here.

Names of the defendants and specific cases are kept secret until the accused persons are taken into custody.

The 115 arrests will include the largest group of people ever indicted by a grand jury on a single charge in the history of Montgomery County.

ENACTED IN 1921

The charge against the group is violation of a state law enacted in 1921. It originally was aimed at labor disputes. The law makes an organized boycott unlawful without a "just cause or legal excuse." Violations are punishable by \$1,000 fines or six months in jail.

The grand jury reported it had discovered in its findings:

1. That the boycott originated with 18 members of what the jury called the Inter-Denominational Alliance composed mostly of Negro ministers. The 18 members, the jury charged, created the Montgomery Improvement Assn., which has directed the boycott.

2. That \$18,000 has been spent by the association in financing the boycott against the bus line.

The jurors warned of "the growing tension" between the races and said that the atmosphere is creating "distrust, dislike and hatred."

11 TRUE BILLS

Only 11 true bills were returned in the grand jury's final report but an official source who wouldn't be quoted by name said 115 defendants were named in the multiple documents.

The grand jury included a Negro writer, E. T. Sinclair, and the following white members: Bob Collier, J. H. Cook, William F. Crenshaw, Cecil Frizzle, Jesse A. Gorrie, V. Van Metcalf, Jack Milligan, Felder A. Miller, George Parker, James D. Hush-jag, Thomas W. Sewell, James C. Shepard, Evans D. Shine Jr., and Ben M. Wilbanks.

The boycott of local buses has continued here for 11 weeks and efforts to end the campaign against riding buses have met with complete failure.

Two groups, the Montgomery City Commission and a civic association, the Men of Montgomery, attempted to solve the strike but proposals by both groups were turned down by Negroes.

The Men of Montgomery proposal Monday night was given a resounding 3,998 to 2 defeat as Negroes voted to continue walking until they receive broader concessions.

One indictment growing out of the boycott was returned by the jurors last Friday. A Negro attorney, Fred Gray, 25, was charged with unlawful practice. See DEPUTIES, Page 2A.

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ENCLOSURE

growing out of an anti-segregation suit filed in U.S. District Court.

Thurgood Marshall, chief counsel for the National Association

(Continued From Page 1)

for the Advancement of Colored People, said that the NAACP will defend Gray. He added that "off-hand" he thought the NAACP would take a part in defending any others indicted for violating the boycott statute.

It was announced yesterday that Gray has been docketed for trial on Friday, March 2, before a Circuit Court jury.

Gray was accused of filing an anti-segregation suit in U.S. District Court without the consent of one of the five Negro women whose names were signed to the complaint. If convicted, he could be fined \$500 and suspended from practice.

Gray filed the court suit as an outgrowth of the mass refusal to ride Montgomery City Lines buses. The petition questions constitutionality of city and state laws which require segregation on all public transportation. No date has been set for hearing on the suit.

ONE OF 114

The indictment against the Negro attorney was one of 114 true bills returned by the grand jury in its partial report, but none of the others were related to the bus protest, court officials said.

Several attempts have been made to settle the boycott since it began Dec. 5 in protest against the arrest of a Negro woman who had refused to move to the colored section of a bus. The defendant, Rosa Parks, was fined \$14 in city court.

The lengthening boycott has brought some violence but no injuries. Dynamite bombs were exploded at the homes of two of the leading figures in the Negro protest movement—the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and E. D. Nixon.

King is pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and one of the most outspoken boycott leaders. Nixon is former state president of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People.

In making its report, the grand jury stated it followed instructions of Circuit Judge Eugene Carter in making investigations and indictments for boycott activity.

Judge Carter had outlined the law which prohibits "conspiracies and combinations" in the organization of resistance or boycotting of business firms.

Presenting the cases to the grand jury were Circuit Solicitor William F. Theford and his assistant, Robert Stewart.

More than 200 witnesses were called in the eight-day proceedings held in the Montgomery County Courthouse.

BY 5 WOMEN

Meanwhile, attorneys for four city officials filed an answer to a segregation suit brought in Federal Court by five Negro women.

With the answer, was filed a motion for dismissal of the action, and denial of a declaratory judgment on the plaintiffs have been deprived of "rights, privileges and immunities" as a result of city and state laws requiring segregation aboard buses.

Mayor W. A. Gayle and Commissioners Frank Parks and Clyde Sellers and Police Chief G. J. Ruppenthal were the city officials named in the suit, which was also brought against Montgomery City Lines Inc. and bus drivers James F. Blake and Robert Cleere.

Attorneys petitioned for dismissal on grounds the governor of Alabama, the attorney general and the Alabama Public Service Commission were not made parties to the suit.

The petition also contended that one of the Negro women, Jeanetta Reese, was made a plaintiff "without her knowledge or consent."

Other grounds listed as supporting dismissal of the suit:

That Mary Louise Smith and Claudette Colvin, who have previously been arrested in connection with violating segregation statutes, had opportunity in state courts to "adjudicate all matters" now before the federal court.

That the plaintiffs have suffered no irreparable injury.

That the federal court should decline to act on the constitutional issue until it is first determined in a state court.

That the federal court has "judicial knowledge that harmony between Negro and white races in this city depends upon continued segregation."

And that the "wrongs and

damages" alleged by the plaintiffs occurred in the legal enforcement of city and state laws.

Attorneys for the city officials are Walter Knabe, Drayton N. Hamilton and Herman H. Hamilton Jr.

Boycotting Illegal Under Alabama Law

A state law on "boycotting and blacklisting" was the basis on which the grand jury indictments were returned.

Title 14, sections 34-61, Code of 1940 makes misdemeanors of such practices as: "conspiracy, combination or agreement to interfere with or hinder business; loitering or picketing; printing or circulating notice of boycotts; using force or threats against persons engaging in lawful occupation."

Others include: "maintaining blacklist, misdemeanor; attempt or threat to injure or destroy property of another; taking possession of property or instrumentality of another, and teaching, printing books or papers or organizing persons to violate provisions of law."

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Mayor Blocks Future Talks About Boycott

Mayor W. A. Gayle said yesterday all negotiations with boycotting Negro bus patrons have ceased and no more are planned. Commenting on the Negroes' rebuff Monday of a compromise seating plan, Mayor Gayle said: "We had 10 meetings with the Negroes. We offered them equal spaces on buses, an arrangement just as fair to them as to the whites, and they turned it down. "No further negotiations by the City Commission or any other committee we know of is anticipated."

OTHERS ENDORSED
Mayor Gayle's remarks were endorsed by the other two commissioners.
Said Sellers: "As far as I'm personally concerned, I'm through with it (the boycott)."
Said Parks: "Amen."
A compromise plan calling for reservation of the front 10 seats of each bus for white passengers, the rear 10 for Negroes, and the middle section to be seated on a "first come, first served" basis, was resoundingly turned down by Negroes Monday night.
A Negro clergyman, the Rev. R. D. Abernathy, pastor of the First Baptist Church, said the vote was "3,998 to 2" in favor of continuing the boycott.
The city officials made their remarks during a regular meeting of the City Commission.

TAXI PERMIT
A request by Williford Montgomery for a permit to operate a Negro taxi with the Dependable Taxi Cab Co., was taken under consideration.
Commissioner Sellers suggested that relative figures on white and Negro taxis be made available to the commission before any action was taken on the application.
"We don't want to become overburdened with them," he said.
In other business yesterday, the commission:
Authorized the Board of Education to purchase for \$10,000 a house and store from Edith Green, adjacent to the Booker Washington School playground.
Approved the education board's request to close an alley running from Union street 250 feet on school property.
DESPITE PROTEST
Granted, despite a protest from members of Capitol Heights Baptist Church, a retail license for off-premises sale of beer to G. A. (See MAYOR, Page 2A)

(Continued from Page 1)
Lesterbury, operator of IGA store at Capitol Heights.
Approved other retail beer licenses for J. T. Weldon, 708 Mobile St.; Southside Pharmacy, 791 McDonough St. and denied the application of George Giles, 2128 Stephens St.
The commission okayed a liquor license application from the Home Red Fez "D" Society, located on the roof garden of the Ben Moore Hotel.
Montgomery Iron and Metal Co. was granted permission to vacate part of Orange street between docks 28 and 32 in Irmadale.
Without opposition, the commission approved rezoning of lots 50, 51 and 52 of Ashley Plat between Foshee road and Flack road from Residential "B" to "heavy industrial."
Robert C. Newman was leased city-owned land near the level pit for \$150 a year.
Sewer assessments on the Wildwood Allendale project, up for final hearing, drew no opposition.

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100-135-61-32
ENCLOSURE

NIXON-SURRENDERS VOLUNTARILY:

8 Negro Leaders Among First Brought To Jail By Deputies

By 10:30 a.m., a total of 18 persons had been arrested for participating in the Negro bus boycott, the latter nine including the pastor of the church in which the first boycott meeting was held, the Rev. A. W. Wilson of Holt Street Baptist. One hundred and 15 persons have been indicted.

By **BUNNY HONICKEE AND JOE JONES**

Six Negro ministers and a former state president of the National Association of Colored People were in the first group of defendants arrested today for taking part in the mass racial boycott against city buses.

Prominent among them were the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, pastor of the Negro First Baptist Church and chairman of the boycotting group's negotiating committee, and the Rev. R. James Glasco, director of the Alabama Negro Baptist Center, 725 Dorsey St. They were brought in to the county jail by sheriff's deputies.

E. D. Nixon, Pullman car porter who is a past president of the Alabama NAACP, surrendered.

All have been active in the 11-week-old mass protest against segregated city buses.

Other defendants brought in as deputies continued serving the 115 indictments returned yesterday by the Montgomery County Grand Jury included:

The Rev. Aaron Hoffman, pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church.

The Rev. H. H. Hubbard, pastor of the Oak Street Baptist Church.

The Rev. L. R. Bennett, pastor of the Mount Zion AME Church.

The Rev. W. J. Powell, pastor of the Old Ship Methodist Church.

Walter Smith, a Negro whose part in the boycott wasn't immediately made known.

Addie James Hamilton, also a Negro.

"WE'RE LAW-ABIDING"

Abernathy issued a brief statement saying, "We are law-abiding citizens and we obey the law."

All of the defendants were in the process of making bonds at 10 a.m. Bonds were set at \$300 each.

Late yesterday, a grand jury returned 11 true bills against 115 defendants charged with participating in the prolonged protest to racial segregation.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3clj/gcl

Alabama Journal
Montgomery, Alabama
Date 2-22-56
Page 1

Re: **RACIAL SITUATION**
MONTGOMERY, ALA.
Mofile 44-439
Bufile 100-135-61

100-135-61-32

ENCLOSURE

Mass Arrests Made Here On Bus Boycott Charges

WARNING SOULDED

Along with the indictments, the grand jury report warned that "violence is inevitable" in Montgomery "if we continue on our present course of race relations."

The indictments were returned under a seldom-used state statute which makes conspiracy to boycott a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

The grand jury's written report said the attack on Alabama's segregation laws by the National Assn. For the Advancement of Colored People is primarily responsible for current racial unrest in Montgomery.

"Distrust, dislike and hatred are being taught in a community which for more than a generation has enjoyed exemplary race relations," the jurors declared.

The grand jury was composed of 17 white men and one Negro, E. T. Sinclair, head waiter at the Montgomery Country Club. There was no way to tell how Sinclair voted on the indictments.

50 WITNESSES HEARD

The jury was reported to have heard more than 50 witnesses in its boycott investigation. One of the final witnesses yesterday afternoon was the Rev. Robert S. Graetz, white pastor of the all-Negro Trinity Lutheran Church, who has been active in support of the boycott. He appeared before the body for more than an hour, the next to the final witness.

The indictments were returned less than 24 hours after Negro leaders flatly rejected a compromise plan for settling the 11-week-old bus boycott. The proposal had been approved by the Montgomery City Bus Lines and the City Commission.

The great majority of Negroes who once patronized the buses have refused to ride them since. Ross Parks, a seamstress, was fined \$14 Dec. 5 for not complying with state and city laws requiring separate facilities for whites and Negroes on public carriers.

The Parks woman declined to
(See BUS BOYCOTT, Page 2-A)

Bus Boycott

(Continued from Page 1)

move to the back of a bus when requested to by the driver.

ATTORNEY INDICTED

In a partial report issued last Friday Negro Attorney, Fred D. Gray was indicted for unlawful practice. He is charged with filing an anti-segregation suit in U. S. District Court without the consent of one of the five Negro women whose names appeared on the complaint. His trial has been set for March 2.

In the final report, the grand jurors said the Montgomery Improvement Assn., led by several Negro ministers, had kept the boycott going by raising some \$18,000.

"Small incidents have been magnified out of their true importance and ugly rumors are being spread among both races," the jurors charged.

TO KEEP SEGREGATION

The report declared segregation in schools, public transportation and elsewhere would be maintained in Alabama "within these laws which reflect our ways of life."

Thurgood Marshall, chief legal counsel for the NAACP, has indicated the organization will help defend those indicted for boycotting the buses.

The law under which the indictments were returned was aimed primarily at labor disputes when approved by the state legislature in 1921. It prohibits boycotting by two or more people without "a just cause or legal excuse."

Members of the grand jury, in addition to Sinclair, were: Alvin H. Wells, foreman, Zeb Collier, J. H. Cook, William F. Crenshaw, Cecil Frizzle, Jesse A. Gorrie, V. Van Metcalfe, Jack O. Milligan, Felder A. Miller, George E. Parker, Paschal R. Perdue, E. O. Riddle, James D. Rushing, Thomas W. Sewell, James C. Shepard, Evan D. Shine Jr., and Ben M. Wilbanks.



NEGRO BOYCOTT LEADER BROUGHT IN
Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, left, enters the county jail in the company of Sheriff's Deputy T. S. Yarbrough. Abernathy, pastor of the Negro First Baptist, has been one of the active leaders in the Negro boycott of buses and has served as chairman of the boycott's negotiating committee. He was among the first of the 115 boycott participants indicted yesterday to be brought to make bond today.—(AP Photo)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

cc - Boardman
Belmont

9c

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

Director, FBI

February 29, 1956

Classified by *sp3 cl/9cl*
Declassify on OADR 3/22/83

RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
FBI File 100-135-61

Racon - mobile
DECLASSIFIED BY *sp3 cl/9cl*
ON 3/22/83 p.m. 7:10:19

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

1-13-76
5-166 - NY, DG
5-167 - NY, DG
To Dec. 1956
Dunham



Copies of reports concerning [redacted] have
been furnished the Department previously.

Any additional pertinent information received
concerning [redacted] will be furnished
you promptly.

2cc - New York
2cc - Detroit

ATTENTION SACS NEW YORK AND DETROIT:

Re Detroit airtel February 24, 1956 captioned
"Racon," in which information was set forth concerning
[redacted]

The New York Office and Detroit Office are
instructed to furnish the Bureau any information received
relative to this matter which may be obtained [redacted]
and [redacted] activities with [redacted] this data should be furnished
[redacted] the Bureau promptly.

Enclosure to memo from Belmont to Boardman dated 2/29/56,
same caption, [redacted] gft.

- Tolson
- Boardman
- Nichols
- Belmont
- Harbo
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Sizoo
- Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

6 MAR 8 1956

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1376 688

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

MAILED 2
MAR 1 1956
COMM-FBI

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The following original pages are of poor quality. UPA has made every technical effort to provide the best possible reproduction.

7C B

MARCH 1, 1956

TELETYPE

SAC, MOBILE

URGENT

RACON

RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY ALABAMA. REURTEL FEBRUARY TWENTYNINE LAST. YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO ASCERTAIN AND FURNISH BUREAU IMMEDIATELY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] YOU ARE ALSO INSTRUCTED TO KEEP BUREAU FULLY INFORMED OF ACTION TAKEN BY PD, MONTGOMERY, OR OTHER AGENCIES WITH REGARD TO [REDACTED] AND OF ANY INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM [REDACTED] OR OTHER SOURCES RELATIVE TO THIS MATTER. [REDACTED] SHOULD BE RECONTACTED AND INSTRUCTED TO KEEP YOUR OFFICE PROMPTLY INFORMED. INDIANAPOLIS HAS ADVISED NO INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE IDENTIFIED WITH [REDACTED] LOCATED IN FILES INDIANAPOLIS OFFICE OR IN CREDIT AND PD RECORDS, INDIANAPOLIS.

HOOVER

BUFILE 100-135-61

67-13

RECORDED - 60

100-135-61-34

MAR 5 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY Sp3cl/pd

YELLOW: Letter of today's date being sent to Attorney General concerning this situation.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

INITIALED

MAR 2 1956'S OFFICE

TELETYPE

- Tolson
- Boardman
- Nichols
- Belmont
- Harbo
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Sizoo
- Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

7C

Das (3)

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MAR 2 11 22 AM '56

MAR 2 11 20 AM '56

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

 1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) b1, b7c, b7d with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
 100-135-61-35

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. L. V. Boardman *LP 6/20*

DATE: February 29, 1956

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont *9*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/25/83 BY SP3 dep/cel
MOBILE

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
W.C. Sullivan _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
BUFILE 100-135-61

By airtel 2/24/56 (attached) Detroit advised

7C
7D

[REDACTED]

As you are aware, on 12/5/55 Negroes in Montgomery, Alabama instituted a boycott of the city bus line for purposes of obtaining first come, first serve seating arrangement, more courtesy, and Negro bus drivers. This boycott is still in effect and has attracted national attention, information concerning which is set forth in the brief on racial situation and civil rights.

7C
7D

[REDACTED]

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) Attached is a letter to the Department [REDACTED]

Copies of the letter to the Department are being furnished to [REDACTED], New York, and Detroit Offices with instructions to furnish the Bureau promptly any information received while there, and any other pertinent information received concerning this matter. If you approve, it is recommended that this letter be sent.

Enclosures *29-56*

cc - [REDACTED]
cc - Mr. Boardman
cc - Mr. Belmont
cc - Mr. [REDACTED]
cc - Mr. [REDACTED]
(6)

RECORDED-42

27 MAR 5 1956

7C
7D

[REDACTED]

UNRECORDED COPIES IN

Memorandum for Mr. Boardman

(2) There is attached an airtel to Mobile instructing that office to ascertain through established sources activities [REDACTED] it is recommended that this airtel be sent.

7C
7D

[Handwritten initials and signatures]

Wet
Chick

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: March 1, 1956

FROM : Mr. L. H. Martin

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Nease	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

ORCON

Mobile *By [signature]*

A12

Reference is made to the teletype from Mobile
March 1, 1956.

**7C
7D**

which sets out leads for several other offices by mail. Pursuant to Mr. Sizoo's instructions, the writer called SAC Hallford, Mobile, at 11 p.m., March 1, 1956, and instructed him to advise the Atlanta Office by telephone and the other offices by teletype to cover these leads immediately and furnish the results to the Bureau as soon as possible on the morning of March 2, 1956.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY SP3 cle/gcl

RECORDED-38
INDEXED-38

100-135-61-37

MAR 6 1956

cc - Mr. Belmont
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Baumgardner
Mr. [redacted]

MAR 8 1956
LHM:jba
(5)

7C
[Handwritten initials]
EX-167
[Handwritten initials]

5-6-1956

Office Memorandum UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

DATE: March 1, 1956

FROM : MR. J. A. SIZOO

cc Mr. Belmont
Mr. Baumgardner
Mr. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
Bufile 100-135-61

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- W.C. Sullivan _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

7C

OBZCOM - Mobile

Ind A12

I called SAC Blaylock, Indianapolis, at approximately 10:30 this morning to ask what the status was of their check concerning the above-captioned person which they had been requested by telephone last night to make on an expedite basis.

Blaylock advised that there were 40 or 50 references to the name [REDACTED] and they had at the time of my call reviewed all but three or four but, as yet, had not been able to tie any of them into the activities in the Mobile area on the basis of the information available concerning the individual of interest to Mobile. He advised that they had completed a check of the Credit Bureau and the criminal files of the police department with negative results, as well as the files of the Internal Security Squad of the Indianapolis Police Department.

[REDACTED] and is an old-timer in the police department, advised his files were negative and he also did not recall anyone by this name as having been of interest to the Indianapolis Police Department.

At the completion of the file check, Blaylock advised that no information in the Indianapolis indices could be identified as relating to [REDACTED]

JAS:td
(4)
JD

RECORDED-38
INDEXED-38

100-135-61-38

MAR 6 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3 de/gcl

EX-107

57 MAR 14 1956

7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 27 1956

TELETYPE

FBI, MOBILE 3-2-56 6-27 PM NPO

DIRECTOR, FBI ... URGENT ...

Recon
RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA. RETELCON WITH BUREAU SECOND INSTANT AND MYTEL TO BUREAU FEB. TWENTYONE LAST ENCLOSING NEWSPAPER CLOPPING CAPTIONED ~~RE~~ NEGRO ATTORNEY ARRESTED FOR UNLAWFUL PRACTICE ~~UNQUOTE~~. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ITEMS, NEGRO ATTORNEY FRED DAVID GRAY WAS INDICTED BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY CJ, MONTGOMERY, ON FEBRUARY SEVENTEEN LAST ON CHARGE OF REPRESENTING JEANEATTA REESE, AN ELDERLY NEGRO HOUSEMAID OF MONRGOMERY, IN A SUIT FILED IN FEDERAL COURT TO END SEGREGATED TRAVEL WITHOUR^T BEING EMPLOYED BY REESE. GRAY ARRESTED LOCAL AUTHORITIES MONTGOMERY FEB. EIGHTEEN LAST AND RELEASED ON BOND. USA HARTWELL DAVIS, MDA, MONTGOMERY, ADVISED SA [REDACTED] ON SECOND INSTANT HE HAD LEARNED THROUGH PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WILLIAM T. THETFORD, COUNTY SOLICITOR, HAD NOL-PROSSED AFOREMENTIONED INDICTMENT IN COUNTY COURT IN MONTGOMERY ON SECOND INSTANT AND HAD STATED HE WAS TURNING CASE OVER TO FEDERAL AUTHORITIES FOR PROSECUTION BECAUSE JURISDITON IN FEDERAL COURT AND NOT IN STATE COURT. DAVIS SAID THETFORD HAD NOT CONTACTED HIM RE MATTER BUT HE WAS RECEIVING PRESS INQUIRY AS TO WHAT ACTION HE INTENDED TO TAKE. DAVIS

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mason	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/22/83 BY sp-3/ck/90

*name
Present. Pres
3-2-56*

*name to place
on 3/5/56
cont*

cont 6

RECORDED-38 100-175-21-39

50 MAR 8 1956

Mr. Tolson

MAR 6 1956

PAGE TWO ...

ADVISED SA [REDACTED] HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER FACTS PRESENTLY
AVAILABLE CONSTITUTED VIOLATION FEDERAL STATUTE [REDACTED]

7C

[REDACTED]

SUBSEQUENT TO WHICH TIME HE WOULD RENDER PROSECUTIVE OPINION.
HE SAID HE MUST MAKE STATEMENT TO PRESS BY MORNING MARCH
FIVE NEXT AS TO ACTION CONTEMPLATED AND AT THAT TIME WILL
TELL PRESS HE HAS ASKED FBI TO INVESTIGATE. [REDACTED] TOLD
USA HE WOULD NOT COMMIT BUREAU TO INVESTIGATION REQUESTED
WITHOUT FIRST DISCUSSING FACTS WITH ME. FOR BUREAU-S INFO
ATTORNEY GRAY REPORTEDLY REPRESENTS ALL BUT TWO OF PERSONS
INDICTED IN CONNECTION WITH BOYCOTT AT MONTGOMERY. FEDERAL
BUILDING AT MONTGOMERY IS ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION.
PER SUBSEQUENT TELCON WITH BUREAU ON SECOND INSTANT
USA DAVIS HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT FACTS HAVE BEEN FULLY
DISCUSSED WITH CRIMINAL DIVISION OF DEPARTMENT AND THEY
DESIRE NO INVESTIGATION AND THAT CRIMINAL DIVISION HAD
ASKED THAT IT BE SUGGESTED TO MR. DAVIS THAT HE MAY
END PAGE TWO ..

1

PAGE THREE...

POSSIBLY WANT TO CONFER WITH THE FEDERAL JUDGE AS TO POSSIBLE
CONTEMPT ACTION. DAVIS SAID DEPARTMENT HAD TELEPHONICALLY
CONTACTED HIM RE THIS MATTER AND HE WOULD CONFER WITH USDC
JUDGE, MONTGOMERY, ON FIFTH INSTANT AND WOULD ADVISE OF
ANY FURTHER ACTION CONTEMPLATED.

H A L L F O R D

END AND ACK PLS

WA 7-35 PM OK FBI WA BLW

TU DI

cc MR. Rosen
AND SUPERVISOR Keep
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

JUL 2 11 20 AM '50

JUL 2 10 05 AM '50

JUL 5 1 31 PM '50

7C

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 1, 1956

copy

DIRECTOR, FBI

100-135-61-40

RECORDED - 26

RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
FBI FILE 100-135-41

EX-108

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

No information which could be identified as pertaining to [REDACTED] was located in the files of this Bureau. The Police Department and the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit in Montgomery have been furnished the above information.

Any additional information received relative to this matter will be furnished the Department promptly.

MAILED 2
MAR 1 1956
COMM-FBI

cc - Mr. William P. Rogers
Deputy Attorney General

cc - Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

cc - Assistant Attorney General
William P. Tompkins

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

FBI - POLICE
REC'D BELMONT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY [signature]

RECEIVED - BOARDMAN

57 MAR 14 1956

Memo to Attorney General

PC
7D

YELLOW: Indianapolis has advised ~~no~~ information which could be identified as pertaining to ~~_____~~ was located in the files of the Indianapolis Office, in the Police Department files or records of the Credit Bureau. The Mobile Office is being instructed by teletype 3-1-56 to furnish Bureau additional information concerning ~~_____~~ and to keep Bureau promptly informed concerning action taken by Montgomery Police Department or other agencies with ~~_____~~ Mobile Office also instructed to recontact ~~_____~~ to keep Mobile Office informed.

APR 2 11 23 AM '56

RECEIVED
MAR 2 10 30 AM '56
FBI
INTERNAL SECURITY

FBI WASH FIELD

DIRECTOR AND SAC MOBILE

RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY

INDICES CHECK ON

UNABLE TO LOCATE ANY INFO IDENTIFIABLE WITH

LAUGHLIN

1m
Bureau
Teletype Unit
RM

RECORDED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/12/01 BY [signature]

618 MAR 16 1955

RECORDED
INDEXED

EX-108

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 1 1956

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Boardman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Parsons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tamm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Winterrowd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Holloman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

82 OR2con

FBI, MOBILE 3-1-56 8-18 PM EMC

DIRECTOR AND SAC INDIANAPOLIS... URGENT

RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA. REMOTEL TO BUREAU

FEBRUARY TWENTYNINE LAST RE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MC [REDACTED]
7C
7D

[REDACTED] HAD MEMBERSHIP CARD IN MONTGOMERY IMPROVEMENT

END PAGE ONE.

Mr. Belmont

Mr. Rosen

MAR 7 1956

LET AD
3/1/56
OK

57 MAR 14 1956

EX-ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY [REDACTED]

PAGE TWO..

ASSOCIATION, NEGRO GROUP CONDUCTING BOYCOTT OF MONTGOMERY
CITY LINES SINCE NOVEMBER FIVE LAST. [REDACTED]

TC
TD

[REDACTED]

END PAGE TWO..

XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) b7c, b7d with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-135-61-42

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X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

PAGE FOUR....

RC
7D

[REDACTED]

INDIANAPOLIS SHOULD ADVISE BUREAU AND THIS OFFICE ANY
SIGNIFICANCE OF ABOVE LIST [REDACTED]
CHICAGO, NEW YORK AND WFO ADVISED BY MAIL TO CHECK INDICES
RE [REDACTED] ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO TAX REPRESENTATIVE NOT
AVAILABLE IN MONTGOMERY ON FEBRUARY TWENTYNINE OR FIRST INSTANT.
END PAGE FOUR ..

VED
15 PM '56
RITY SECT.

PAGE FIVE...

A AND TT REPRESENTATIVE, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, ADVISED BY MAIL AS TO REPORT [REDACTED] THE BUREAU WILL BE KEPT PROMPTLY ADVISED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. FOR INFO BUREAU THIS OFFICE HAS MADE NO RECOMMENDATION TO MONTGOMERY PD AS TO ACTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN BY THAT DEPARTMENT RE REPORT [REDACTED]

7C
7D
|

H A L L F O R D

ECORRECT PAGE FIVE LAST LINE WORD EIGHT SH BE [REDACTED]

END AND ACK PLS I O

WA 9-40 PM OK FBI WA EW

IP OK FBI IP JRS

TUCBDIS

OO: MR. BELMONT
AND SUPERVISOR
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

OO: MR. ROSEN
AND SUPERVISOR
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

FBI
NOV 1 8 3-67.22

NOV 1 8 3-67.22

EB
RECORDED
NOV 5 5

1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 2 1956

TELETYPE

FBI, CHICAGO
DIRECTOR, FBI

Recon

3-2-56

URGENT

9-15

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Boardman _____
- Mr. Belmont _____
- Mr. Mason _____
- Mr. Mohr _____
- Mr. Parsons _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tamm _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Mr. Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Holloman _____
- Miss Gandy _____

RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA. RE MOBILE TEL TO DIRECTOR
MARCH TWO INSTANT. REVIEW OF CG INDICES FAILED TO REFLECT ANY INFO
IDENTIFIABLE TO [REDACTED] DESCRIBED IN RETEL.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

HOSTETTER

END AND ACK PLS
10-17 AM OK FBI WA JP
TU DISC PL

DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3 clj/gcl
100-135-61-43

RECORDED - 28

27 MAR 8 1956

Mr. Belmont

7C EX-125

REQ

cc - Boardman
Belmont

7C

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 1, 1956

Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
FBI File 100-135-61

DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3 d/pcl

4

EXEMPTED - 25

100-135-61-43

Reference is made to my memorandum to you
dated March 1, 1956.

7C
7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had in his possession a membership
card denoting membership in the Montgomery Improvement
Association, the organization conducting the boycott
of the Montgomery city bus lines.

[REDACTED]

MAILED
MAR 2 1956
COMM-FBI

MAR 2 10 04 AM '56
RECEIVED READING ROOM
FBI

Tolson
Belmont
Nichols
Boardman
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE #2

9 MAR 13 1956

7C

-1704

FBI
RECEIVED BELMONT

Handwritten initials and marks

Memorandum For The Attorney General

7C
7D
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] No other investigation is contemplated by the Montgomery Police Department.

The local representative of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit advised no action is contemplated by that agency unless the Police Department locates [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Any additional pertinent information received relative to this matter will be furnished the Department promptly.

2cc - Mr. William P. Rogers
Deputy Attorney General

2cc - Assistant Attorney General
Warren Slacy III

2cc - Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

NOTE ON YELLOW:

7C
By teletype New York, Chicago and Washington Field are instructed on Mobile to search indices for information concerning [REDACTED] New York has advised one reference to [REDACTED] located. Teletype sent to Buffalo to attempt to determine whether this reference pertains to the [REDACTED] in question. WFO has advised indices search negative. Indianapolis advised previously indices search and checks with police and credit records negative. Mobile is continuing to remain alert to this situation and will keep Bureau advised. Additional information will be furnished the Department promptly upon receipt thereof. Atlanta also contacted [REDACTED] Atlanta advised they are not identical.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: 3/2/56

TO : Director, FBI
FROM : SAC, Mobile
SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Oracon

For further information of the Bureau, attached are two copies of a newspaper item appearing in the Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, 2/28/56, captioned "NEGRO CLERICS ISSUE CALL FOR CONTINUED RESISTANCE."

- Encl. (2)
2 - Bureau (100-135-61) (Encl. 1)
1 - Mobile (44-439)

7c

10
(3) 26
ENCLOSURE *44-125*

100-135-61-44

*only 1 copy
Rec'd when opened
in routing copy
3/5/56*

RECORDED - 26

MAR 7 1956

INDEXED - 26

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *3/22/83* BY *spc/epj*

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meals
ORACION

59 MAR 9 1956 *frdy*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/83 BY SP3clp/oa

WHITE 'ENEMY'

**Negro Clerics Issue Call
For Continued Resistance**

Negro ministers urging "passive resistance" on their frenzied followers used their strongest language of the boycott last night, branding the white man "our enemy."

The Rev. E. N. French, one of 24 Negro clergymen indicted for violating Alabama's anti-boycott law, told the crowd at Holt Street Baptist Church:

"We are not afraid. We are no longer afraid, no matter what the enemy might do."

With his audience clapping its approval, French said "our white brethren" once "towed us along. He held out a stick of candy or a red handkerchief and we followed him wherever he went.

"When he found out he couldn't do that any longer, he had to find another way—the way of fear. He used all kinds of techniques to frighten us.

"Now the white man has awakened and found that the Negro is no longer afraid of jail. And now our white brethren have got to find another way."

King cautioned the Negroes against violence and intimidation. He indicated that a Negro woman,

Jeanetta Reese, who withdrew from an anti-segregation suit after it was filed in Federal Court, had been threatened.

"We are not to make any threatening calls to Mrs. Reese," King said. "We are not going to solve the problem by threatening her."

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Alabama

Date 2-28-56

Page 5-B

Re:

**RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALA.**

*Profile 44-437
Profile 100-125-61*

100-125-61-44
ENCLOSURE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 2 1956

TELETYPE

FBI NYC 3-2-56 7-15 AM EST JFM

DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC MOBILE URGENT

RACIAL SITUATION MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA. RE MOBILE TEL THREE ONE.

ON BASIS INFO FURNISHED INDICES NYO REFLECT ONE REFERENCE TO A

[REDACTED] WHO MAY BE IDENTICAL WITH [REDACTED] MENTIONED
IN RETEL. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

END PAGE ONE.....

100-135-61-42
RECORDED - 28
MAR 9 1956
FBI
REC'D BELMONT
MAR 12 1956

FBI
REC'D BELMONT
MAR 14 1956

Mr. Belmont

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/83 BY sp3cl/hcl

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Boardman
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Mason
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Parsons
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Holloman
- Miss Gandy

2
C
D

PAGE TWO.....

[REDACTED]

NO FURTHER INFO RE THIS [REDACTED] APPEARS IN FILES NYO.
BUFFALO BEING REQUESTED TO ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE IF THIS [REDACTED]
IDENTICAL WITH [REDACTED] SUBJECT OF RETEL.

KELLY

END ACK IN ORDER POS

EA- 7-17 AM OK FBI WA JP

MO-

~~DEPT OF JUSTICE~~

~~RECEIVED STERIL 2 0 1940~~

~~WMO 2 0 1940~~

~~NY OFF~~

~~NY OFF~~

~~GET OFF LINE PS~~

~~MO ARE 5 THERE~~

OK FBI MO VFP

cc. MR. BELMONT
AND SUPERVISOR _____
DOM. INTEL DIVISION

FBI
JUL 17 1940