

Investigation as requested  
5/5/56.

Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: May 3

WO: MWH:vm

144-2-152

FROM : Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

SUBJECT: Racial Situation  
Montgomery, Alabama

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	✓

WFO  
Per  
CWO  
5/9/56

*R*

Reference is made to your memorandum of April 17, 1956 concerning a report relative to the alleged connection of Mr. T. P. Sellers with the burning of the homes of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and E. D. Nixon earlier this year at Montgomery, Alabama.

[REDACTED]

According to the memorandum, T. P. Sellers shortly after the bombing of the Nixon residence was allegedly admitted to St. Margaret's Hospital at Montgomery suffering from injuries and burns allegedly resulting from an explosion. It appears that the rumor indicates that the alleged explosion was connected with the bombing of Nixon's residence.

[REDACTED]

It is noted that information to the above effect was furnished by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] under the circumstances it is believed that [REDACTED] as well as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] should be interviewed for any further information they may have. We would particularly be interested in the source of [REDACTED] information and the identity of any person who may have knowledge of the cause of the alleged injury and burns to T. P. Sellers.

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5/5/56  
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RECORDED-31 100-135-61-144

23 MAY 9 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

EX - 120

DATE 3/29/83 BY [signature]

58 MAY 15 1956

Price, Sup

EXP. PROC.  
MAY 4 1956

*Chm*

Office M

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM : SAC, MOBILE (44-439)  
SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
MONTGOMERY, ALA.

DATE: 5/7/56

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY [signature]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chicago is requested to identify [REDACTED] and ascertain his labor and any possible subversive affiliations and furnish this information to the Bureau and Mobile.

- 2 - Bureau (100-135-61) (AM) (RM)
- 2 - Chicago (AM) (RM)
- 2 - Mobile (44-439)

[REDACTED] mrrh  
(c)

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RECORDED 121  
INDEXED 121

16 MAY 9 1956

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

EX-100

FBI

Date 5/3/56

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	_____

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, MOBILE

To: DIRECTOR, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY sp3clj/ed

Re San Francisco airtel, 4/11/56.

[redacted] advised on 4/30/56 that on 4/26/56 he was visited at Montgomery by a man identified then only as [redacted] representing some newspaper on the West Coast. On 5/1/56 [redacted] advised that he had located a copy of the paper which [redacted] represented and had left with [redacted] and it was the "Daily people's World".

[redacted] said that [redacted] was driving an old Chrysler club coupe, with Virginia license tags, number not noted. He tried to get a sensational story from [redacted] and allegedly tried to get [redacted] to say that the racial situation at Montgomery would probably result in bloodshed. [redacted] said that he furnished only factual data of a limited nature because he did not trust [redacted].

3-Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)

NOT RECORDED  
87 MAY 9 1956

(1-RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALA. - 100-135-61)

2-New York (REGISTERED MAIL)

2-San Francisco (REGISTERED MAIL)

3-Mobile  
(1-CP, USA - 100-10)

(1-RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALA. - 100-139)

58 MAY 21 1956

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Mr. Belmont

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M Per \_\_\_\_\_

SUBV CONTROL

ORIGINAL FILED IN [redacted] RECORDED - COPY FILED IN [redacted]

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[redacted]

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F B I

Date:

Transmit the following message via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC,

To: DIRECTOR, FBI

5/3/56

[Redacted] 7C  
[Redacted]

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|

He said that apparently traveling with [Redacted] was a reporter of the "Canadian Tribune" of Toronto, Canada, name not recalled. [Redacted] said that he had inquired of the local papers, and had found no one who had been contacted by [Redacted] he knew nothing else about [Redacted] visit.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted], all were contacted 5/1/56, but had no information re [Redacted] visit.

HALLFORD

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Mr. [REDACTED]

May 11, 1956

7C

SAC, Mobile

AIRTEL

*WACON*

RACIAL SITUATION, STATE OF ALABAMA. Reurlet  
May 3, 1956, captioned [REDACTED]  
Racial Situation.

You are instructed to initiate immediately discreet inquiries in an effort to determine whether or not the telephone call made to [REDACTED] on May 3, 1956, originated within the State of Alabama. Results of your efforts should be promptly furnished Bureau under appropriate caption.

HOOVER

Bufile 100-135-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

NOTE ON YELLOW:

DATE 3/29/83 BY [REDACTED]

On 5/3/56 [REDACTED] Negro, advised Mobile Office she had just received a threatening telephone call in which an unidentified caller stated "We are just waiting to give you what we gave the boys, only a better job." On same date [REDACTED] two sons were attacked by eight white boys. Department advised.

EX-122

RECORDED - 84 100-135-61-14

MAY 14 1956

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

COMM - FBI  
MAY 11 1956  
MAILED 24

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copy

MAY 12 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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

DATE: 5/7/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (44-439)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Enclosed herewith are two copies of the following newspaper items:

1. Item appearing in Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, 5/1/56 captioned "SUIT FILED BY CITY ASKING ENFORCEMENT OF BUS SEGREGATION."
2. Item appearing in Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, 5/3/56 captioned "BUS INJUNCTION HEARING HELD; RULING DUE SOON."

4 ENCLOSURE

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

lo

(3)

7C

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

COPIES  
114

Enclosure to [signature]  
5-11-56

RECORDED-45

INDEXED - 45

100-135-61-147

28 MAY 9 1956

EX - 13

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70 18

# Bus Injunction Hearing Held; Ruling Due Soon

(Photo On Page 8-C)

A decision on an injunction sought by city officials to halt racial integration plans of Montgomery City Lines buses was promised in "the next few days" by Circuit Judge Walter B. Jones today.

Clyde Sellers, city commissioner, was the only witness to testify in the hearing.

When asked by Attorney Walter Knabe, representing the city, what would happen if segregation were broken down now, Sellers replied that, in his opinion, "We would have riots — it would be dangerous for people to walk the streets."

"Montgomery City Lines might then just as well park their buses, because the white people wouldn't ride them," Sellers declared.

## TELLS OF "DISORDER"

Sellers said there has been "quite a bit of disorder" involving the buses. He said that people who rode buses had been threatened, that some had suffered bodily harm for riding, and that buses had been fired at "15 or 16 times" in Negro sections.

Under questioning by Robert Thrun, attorney for Montgomery City Lines in the case and counsel for the national firm, the Montgomery commissioner admitted the disorders took place before the National City Lines announced its integration policy.

Thrun, of New York, told Judge Jones in his argument that the bus company "after careful consideration" has concluded that legal segregation laws are no longer a defense against federal prosecution under the civil rights statutes or damage suits by Negro passengers.

"We've enforced segregation acts for more than 20 years. Even after the boycott, we continued under great financial loss," he said.

"Naturally, after the boycott continued, we gave consideration to our legal position and reached the conclusion we were in a vulnerable position," the attorney said. He said the company then waited for the outcome of the South Carolina case, then before the U. S. Supreme Court.

Thrun pointed out that no incidents have been reported in places where the buses have carried out their non-segregation policy.

"Incidents are as likely to occur if segregation is upheld as if integration occurs," Thrun said.

(See BUS INJUNCTION, P. 2-A)

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Some of Thrun's remarks on the South Carolina case caused Knabe to charge that the bus firm was "more afraid of law suits against them than they are interested in public safety."

A long bill of demurrer was filed by bus company attorney yesterday, seeking to have the Montgomery suit dismissed.

Ben W. Franklin, vice president of the national bus company, sat at the table with Thrun. Assistant Walter Knabe was Herman Hamilton.

Among the scattered spectators in the courtroom was State Attorney General John Patterson. Only four or five Negroes were present, including Fred Gray and Charles Langford, who represented the Rev. M. L. King and most of those indicted on the boycott law.

Thrun said he didn't interpret the recent Supreme Court decision as a ruling on the issue of bus segregation itself but merely an order dismissing an appeal because the case was still pending in the lower courts.

The Supreme Court on April 2 dismissed an appeal from the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal and left standing an earlier ruling by the circuit court knocking out bus segregation laws in South Carolina. Thrun said in his opinion that was done because the case was still pending in the lower courts on the question of damages.

The bus company also contended that Judge Jones lack jurisdiction in view of another case pending in U. S. District Court here which challenges constitutionality of city and state segregation laws. That case is scheduled for airing before a three-judge panel on May 11.

But city attorney Walter Knabe answered that the two cases involve different issues and that nothing else an injunction is needed now "to fill the gap."

Despite the bus company's integration order, no mixing of the races has been reported here.

Another lawsuit is pending in U. S. District Court for a three-judge panel hearing May 11. The suit filed by Montgomery Negroes challenges constitutionality of Alabama segregation laws.

Alabama Journal  
Montgomery, Alabama  
Date 5-3-56  
Page 1

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Bufile: 100-135-61  
Mofile: 44-439

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/27/82 BY [signature]

100-135-147  
ENCLOSURE

# Suit Filed By City Asking Enforcement Of Bus Segregation

By CHARLES SULLIVAN a temporary injunction against the bus company's desegregation policy in a hearing here at 10 a m. Thursday.

The City of Montgomery has filed suit asking that Montgomery City Lines Bus Co be required by Circuit Court order to comply with local and state bus segregation laws or cease operating in continued violation of these laws.

In its suit, the City claims that failure to obey and enforce local segregation laws on buses will "possibly lead to the attempt of some person or persons to seat themselves contrary to city laws and that such effort would probably result in assaults, affrays, and injuries to individual citizens in Montgomery."

Filed late yesterday in Circuit Court here, the suit avers that continued adherence to the bus company's desegregation policy begun here on April 23 "threatens the public health and safety by creating a clear and present danger of race riots, disorderly conduct, assaults, affrays, bombings and other physical attacks."

NO ADEQUATE REMEDY

Further it states that "there would be no adequate remedy at Complainant (City of Montgomery), and that to wait until an outbreak will consider the city's request for (See SUIT FILED, Page 6-A)

Alabama Journal  
Montgomery, Alabama  
Date 5-1-56  
Page 1

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Bufile: 100-135-61  
Mofile: 44-439

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/27/83 BY SPS/cls/jjt

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-179

## Suit Filed

(Continued From Page 1)

occurs would create irreparable damage and injury."

The suit asks that the decision be made by the one of the "Honorable Judges of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, sitting in Equity." City attorneys stated in the document that "there is no adequate appeal except by appeal to court of equity."

In the wake of a Supreme Court decision generally then believed to declare racial segregation on buses unconstitutional, Montgomery City Lines ordered its drivers on April 23 to cease enforcing racial segregation on local city buses.

This order was immediately followed by City Police Commissioner Clyde Sellers' strongly worded statement that local segregation laws were still in effect and would be stringently enforced with violators subject to arrest and fines.

Currently the Supreme Court statement refusing to hear a state request for an appeal on a South Carolina federal case dealing with bus segregation is not construed to mean that bus racial segregation is unconstitutional. The highest court simply refused to consider the appeal in the submitted form and in effect sent the case back to U. S. District Court for settlement.

The lawyers that current bus operation on the desegregated basis constitutes a public nuisance injurious to the public health, morals, and welfare and peace

of the community and City of Montgomery. They continue that the operation creates tension, uncertainty . . . and is in violation of the established social pattern.

In their seven-page suit, the City contends that desegregated bus operations here threaten the public morals by engendering in the public a contemptuous disregard for all laws and customs, and weakens public confidence in and respect for community officials.

### POSES THREAT

The City says the desegregated operation poses a threat to the very existence of a public bus system in Montgomery. In brief, the City says the current situation regarding bus segregation affords an open invitation for irresponsible elements of the community to breach the peace, cause disorderly conduct and incite riot and civil commotion.

Newsmen have noted that Negroes still riding the buses continue to segregate themselves in the rear of the buses according to long-standing laws and customs. Leaders of the boycott fostering Montgomery Improvement Association have declared that the bus boycott will continue until all their demands are met, i.e., desegregation, more courteous treatment, and some Negro bus drivers on Negro routes.

The City asks for an immediate injunction to require the bus company to withdraw its desegregation order and to restrain the company from operating in viola-

tion of city and state segregation laws. In addition, a final hearing is requested along with a decree to order the bus company to comply with and abide by all state and local racial segregation laws in its operation under the current franchise.

Mayor W. A. Gayle signed the suit which was notarized before City Clerk Silas Cater. City attorneys Walter J. Knabe and Herman Hamilton filed the suit in behalf of the City.

Contacted early today, bus company officials B. W. Franklin and Reynolds C. Mills said they had received no notification of the suit as yet and could not comment on the issue.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 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) b2, b7c, b7D with no segregable material available for release to you. 17m
- 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):  
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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
100-135-61-148

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X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ cc [redacted]

7C  
May 15, 1956

Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

RECORDED-66  
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Director, FBI

*Rosen - mobile*

RACIAL SITUATION  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Reference is made to my recent memoranda concerning the boycott of the city buses in Montgomery, Alabama, by Negroes.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Any additional pertinent information received in this matter will be made available to you promptly.

100-135-61

DECLASSIFIED BY *[signature]*

ON 3/27/83

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mason \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_

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1956  
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

AGENCIES  
DATE 7/15/83  
DECLASSIFIED  
MAY 1 1980  
MAILED 31

F B I

Date: 5/3/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing) AIR MAIL

From SAC, Mobile

To: Director, FBI

RACIAL SITUATION  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY *[Signature]*

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	

Reurmemo to Department 4/27/56.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- 3 - Bureau (100-135-61) (AM)
- 2 - Mobile (cc 44-339)
- 1 - ma

RECORDED - 67 100-135-61-11

EX - 128 11 MAY 5 1956

Mr. Belmont

Approved: *[Signature]*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *[Signature]* Per *[Signature]*

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[REDACTED]

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at to Army  
5-11-56

36 (6-21-55)

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following message via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, -

To: Director, FBI

5/3/56

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised on 5/2/56 that there have been no incidents arising from the Supreme Court decision of 4/23/56 on the South Carolina case. He said that no Negroes have attempted to ride in the front of the buses, and no white people have been reported as riding in the rear behind any negroes, although white people have generally occupied the whole bus recently, with few or no negroes riding.

The Bureau will be kept advised of all developments in this matter.

HALLFORD

CO: MR. FLEMING  
AND SUPERVISOR  
DCM INTEL DIVISION

- 2 -

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

cc - Liaison Section  
cc - Mr. [REDACTED]

7C

RECORDED - 67  
EX - 120 100-135-61-141

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/83 BY [REDACTED]

Date: May 11, 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: FACIAL SITUATION  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Reference is made to my memorandum dated  
April 27, 1956, concerning the boycott of city buses  
in Montgomery, Alabama, by Negroes.

[REDACTED]

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MAILED 12  
MAY 11 1956  
COMM - FBI

BY COURIER SMC  
MAY 11 1956  
COMM - FBI

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

cc - Assistant Attorney General (By Form 0-6, same date)  
William F. Tompkins

MAY 21 1956  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

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

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
advised on May 2, 1956, that there have been no incidents arising from the decision of the Supreme Court in the South Carolina case. He said that no Negroes have

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

attempted to ride in the segregated portion of the buses, and no white people have been reported as riding in the rear of the buses, although white people have generally occupied the entire buses recently, with few or no Negroes riding.

Any additional pertinent information received in this matter will be made available to you promptly.

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

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

BY COURIER SERVICE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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

DATE: 5/11/56

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-128214)  
*TRACON Mobile*  
SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Re Mobile letter to the Bureau dated 4/10/56.

The indices of the NYO contain the following information concerning the Fellowship of Reconciliation:

The Fellowship of Reconciliation is an international organization founded at Cambridge University, England, in December 1914, and extended to the US in November 1915, with headquarters in NYC. From its inception the organization has functioned as a semi-religious, social-pacifist group. Among other things, the activities of the Fellowship of Reconciliation have included opposition to peacetime conscription; advocacy of pacifism; the abolishment of Selective Service laws and poll taxes; campaigning for racial equality; the establishment of a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission and opposition to the use of the atomic bomb.

Communism has been denounced by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, although many of its ideals closely parallel those of the CP.

*7D*  
[Redacted]  
the organization is an international pacifist-type organization dominated by religious rather than political motives, which strives to solve the world problems through the use of peaceful methods rather than force, and which strives to eliminate racial discrimination.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY SP3 dfg/ed

100-135-61-150

- 2 - Bureau (100-135-61) (RM)
- 2 - Mobile (44-439) (RM)
- 1 - New York (100-7546)
- 1 - New York (100-128214)

RECORDED-66

14 MAY 15 1956

EX - 120

*Rec NY 5/14/56*

*7C*

*hac*

*MAY 12 8 42 AM '56*

*EX-120*

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

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\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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FBI

Date: 5/11/56

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	_____

Transmit the following message via AIR-TEL

AIR MAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, MOBILE (44-439)

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

RACIAL SITUATION  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

ReBuairtel 5/5/56.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised on 5/9/56 he had heard  
[REDACTED] that T. P. SELLERS  
[REDACTED] had caused the bombing of  
the homes of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. and E. D. NIXON in  
January and February 1956. [REDACTED] reportedly had made efforts  
to trace the original source of this information without  
success. [REDACTED] furnished no specific information involving  
T. P. SELLERS.

A report will be submitted to reach the Bureau by  
5/16/56.

HALLFORD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY [REDACTED]

3 - Bureau (100-135-61) (AIR MAIL - REGISTERED)

2 - Mobile (44-439)

[REDACTED]

Mr. Belmont

MR. BELMONT  
AND SUPERVISOR  
DOM. INTEL DIVISION

RECORDED - 93

100-135-61-151

20 MAY 17 1956

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7C 100-135-125

Went - C

Approved: [Signature] Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

MAY 23 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM : SAC, MOBILE  
SUBJECT: UNSUBS (About 8):  
[REDACTED]

DATE: 5/3/56

*Racon - Mobile*

RACIAL SITUATION

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[REDACTED]

She advised that she is colored and that her two sons, [REDACTED] attended a play at Dunbar Auditorium the evening of 5/2/56. She stated that following the play they returned to Prichard by bus and between 10:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. on 5/2/56 were walking from the bus to their home. She stated that they were at the corner of Chandler and Wilson Avenues at the side of McMillan Drug Store #2 and that about eight white boys ran out from behind this drug store and made some statement, "Will the Negroes rise again" and began laughing heartily. She stated that they struck her boys, first striking the younger boy on the leg with a big stick or a bat and that they struck her older boy in the back, apparently with a bat. She stated the smaller one was hit around the eyes and that the person hitting him possibly had brass knuckles or if not, a heavy ring. She stated that all of the UNSUBS had sticks and one of them had a knife. She advised that her boys walked backwards toward a street light and that the UNSUBS followed them until they neared the street light and then ran. She stated her boys came home which was about three blocks distance from where the incident had occurred and that she immediately called the police, but that it was over an hour before the police arrived and it was necessary for her to call three or four times before policemen came. She stated that she talked to [REDACTED] of the Prichard PD. She advised that the officer who came to the house checked the two boys and appeared to be concerned as to their injuries and suggested that she take them to the hospital. She stated that she took them to Providence Hospital and [REDACTED] checked them and took care of their injuries. She stated that they had no broken bones, but bruises and open wounds from their injuries. She advised that [REDACTED] had told her to take

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/21/83 BY SP3/ckp/ckd

EX-108 PROC.

34  
RECEIVED - SECURITY DIVISION

RECORDED - 71

INDEXED - 71

14 MAY 8 1956

EX-108

5-14-56

- 2 - Bureau
- 1 - Mobile (44-0)
- spt
- (3)

7C

[REDACTED]

DIRECTOR, FBI

5/3/56

RE: MRS. (About 8):

[REDACTED] 7C  
RACIAL SITUATION

then home after rendering first aid but told her to call him if there were any complications.

She advised that after calling the Prichard Police more than once and they had failed to arrive, she called the County officers and understood that a County officer had come to her home to check into the matter but that he arrived after she had left with the two boys to take them to Providence Hospital.

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[REDACTED] She stated that her boys could not identify any of the participants in the assault and she said it was her opinion that its participants did not know the identity of her boys. She stated that her boys observed a cab driver across the street from where this occurred and were also of the opinion that there was also a small gray car parked in the alleyway behind the drug store from where these boys first appeared.

She stated that she felt there was a colored-white connection to this incident and that she was considering furnishing the story to the Mobile paper as "these matters should be stopped at the outset."

The above is furnished to the Bureau for information in view of indication that publicity may result from this incident. No investigation is being instituted as no CR violation is indicated.

ADDENDUM:

At 7:00 P.M., 5/3/56, [REDACTED] telephonically contacted the Mobile Office and advised that she had just received a threatening telephone call as follows, "We are just waiting to give you what we gave the boys, only a better job".

[REDACTED] was advised to contact the local authorities.

7C

Mr. [REDACTED]

Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

May 14, 1956

Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/83 BY [REDACTED]

RECORDED - 71

RACIAL SITUATION  
STATE OF ALABAMA

EX-108

The following data which was furnished by the  
Mobile Office of this Bureau is being forwarded to you  
for your information.

On May 3, 1956, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that her two sons,  
[REDACTED] while returning home between 10:30 and  
11:00 p.m., on May 3, 1956, were attacked by about eight  
white boys who struck one of her sons on the leg with a big  
stick or a bat and he was also hit around the eyes by a  
person who possibly was wearing brass knuckles or a heavy  
ring. Her other son was struck in the back apparently with  
a bat. She stated that all of the unidentified white boys  
had sticks and one of them had a knife.

She advised she immediately called the police;  
however, it was necessary to call the police three or four  
times before they showed up over an hour later. The officer  
who came to her house appeared to be concerned over the  
injuries sustained by her sons and suggested that they be  
taken to a hospital. [REDACTED] advised that she took them  
to Providence Hospital where their injuries were treated.  
She stated they had no broken bones, but had received bruises  
and open wounds. She stated her sons could not identify any  
of the participants in the assault.

At 7:00 p.m., on May 3, 1956, [REDACTED] telephonically  
contacted the Mobile Office of this Bureau and advised she had  
just received a threatening telephone call in which an  
unidentified caller stated, "We are just waiting to give you  
what we gave the boys, only a better job." [REDACTED] was  
advised to contact the local authorities concerning this  
telephone call.

Attempts are being made to determine whether or  
not the telephone call made to [REDACTED] originated within  
the State of Alabama. The results of these attempts will  
be furnished you promptly.

100-135-61

NOTE: Airtel to Mobile 4/11/56 to determine origin  
of telephone call.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Lason \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holman \_\_\_\_\_

MAY 23 1956

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MAILED 12  
MAY 14 1956  
FBI

WALK  
[Handwritten signatures and initials]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 5/14/56

FROM : SAC, MOBILE

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Enclosed herewith are two copies of the following newspaper item, which item appeared in the Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, May 10, 1956 captioned "Judge Orders Bus Line To Abandon Integration".

ENCLOSURE

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

[Redacted] apt  
(4)

FILED

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 5/27/93 BY [Redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

1 cc encls to  
[Redacted]  
5-18-56

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RECORDED - 52

25 MAY 23 1956

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INT SEC

1-D 112  
MAY 24 1956

# Judge Orders Bus Line To Abandon Integration

## Jones Cites Laws Barring Race Mixing

Holding that the Supreme Court hasn't outlawed bus segregation yet, Circuit Judge Walter B. Jones, in Circuit Court directed Montgomery City Lines yesterday to abandon its new integration policy.

He ruled that nothing in the U.S. Constitution gives the federal government the right to prohibit the states from segregating bus passengers in intrastate transportation.

With that conclusion, he held Montgomery city and Alabama state segregation laws constitutional and ordered the bus company here to "comply with and abide" with them.

Reynolds C. Mills, assistant superintendent of Montgomery City Lines, said the company will comply with Judge Jones' order.

Mills said officials of National City Lines, Inc., Chicago, parent company of the local bus lines, will make the decision on whether the circuit court order is appealed.

In Chicago, Benjamin W. Franklin, vice president of National City Lines, parent firm of the Montgomery bus company, said: "We will obey the injunction, of course." Franklin said no plans had been made on what, if any, future legal steps might be taken by the company.

Jones' decision granting an injunction against further compliance with the bus company's recent integration order came at the request of the City of Montgomery, whose officials and attorneys predicted rioting and other violence if the segregation laws are broken down.

### TENSION, UNREST

The judge took note of that threat and observed in his written order yesterday:

"A situation of tension and unrest has been created in the City of Montgomery, which is likely to explode into violence at any time, if not restrained."

Most Montgomery Negroes have boycotted city buses for nearly six months even despite the company's instructions to its drivers to refrain from enforcing the segregation laws. Negro leaders voted at a mass meeting recently to continue the boycott until city and state officials recognize integration.

There have been no reports of actual integration aboard the buses even though the company abandoned segregation as a policy. Negroes who have continued to patronize the buses have remained in the rear, where they always sat.

### HEARING FRIDAY

Jones' decision came only two days ahead of a scheduled federal court hearing on a suit challenging constitutionality of city and state segregation laws.

A three-judge panel will try the suit here Friday. The complaint

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DATE 3/24/83 BY [signature]

Montgomery Advertiser  
Montgomery, Alabama  
Date 5-20-56  
Page 1A

Re: RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Bufile 100-135-61

Mcfile 44-439

100-135-61-151

ENCLOSURE

bears the names of ~~six~~ Negroes and was filed as an outgrowth of the bus boycott.

What will happen to Jones' injunctive order if the federal court rules the segregation laws unconstitutional couldn't immediately be determined. The courts and opposing attorneys declined to speculate.

Without elaborating, Jones wrote in his decision that "There is no straight out decision of the Supreme Court of the United States holding that a state or city may not require the separation of the races on buses where carriage of passengers is solely intrastate."

A Supreme Court ruling on April 18 was interpreted as outlawing segregation on city buses, but some lawyers contended it didn't settle the issue.

The decision dismissed an appeal from a ruling of the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals which, in turn, has held bus segregation in Columbia, S.C. unconstitutional and had sent the case back to the original trial court to determine the question of damages.

Whether the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal on the grounds that segregation is invalid or because the case was still pending in the lower courts wasn't made clear.

Jones questioned validity of the Federal Court of Appeals' ruling, holding it "is not well reasoned, is not sound law" and "At best it is simply the guess of the Fourth Circuit Court of what the Supreme Court will hold."

Basing his conclusion on the 10th amendment to the U.S. Constitution which says powers not delegated to the federal government by the organic law or prohibited to the states are reserved for the states or the people, Jones asked:

"Where in the United States Constitution is there any delegation of power to the United States Government to say that a state cannot make reasonable regulations for the carriage of passengers on public conveyances wholly within the state?"

"Where in the federal constitution is there one word, one sentence, or one paragraph, saying that the sovereign states of this union, the states which created the federal government—and many of whose constitutions antedate the federal constitution — are prohibited from making . . . reasonable rules for the separation of the races . . . ?"

Continuing, he said the power claimed for the federal government by the court of appeals in the South Carolina bus case "does not exist and never has existed. It is a power reserved to the states and their people."

"This court will not be a party to filching the power from the state," he declared.

cc Liaison Section  
cc Mr. [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/83 BY [REDACTED]

100-135

Date: May 17, 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

MOBILE

Subject: RACIAL SITUATION  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

RACON

Reference is made to my memorandum dated  
April 18, 1956, furnishing you information [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Further NAACP meetings are  
generally publicized and well attended. He pointed  
out that meetings have been held at churches every  
Sunday during April, 1956, in connection with a member-  
ship drive and these meetings have received both  
advance and subsequent publicity.

No incidents have arisen as a result  
of these meetings. He also stated that the press has  
"played down" these meetings by placing newspaper  
articles on the back pages of the newspapers possibly  
to avoid giving the NAACP undue publicity.

100-135-61  
NOT RECORDED  
(Office) 1956

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

cc Bufile 100-135-61 (Racial Situation, Mobile Office) 1956  
cc Assistant Attorney General (By Form 0-6,  
William F. Tompkins same date)  
cc Assistant Attorney General (By Form 0-6,  
Warren Olney III same date)

MAY 23 1956

YELLOW  
DUPLICATE  
MAY

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

[REDACTED]  
Further, regular meetings do not receive any publicity and for that reason may be regarded by some as being "secret." He continued that actually the NAACP would appreciate better press coverage. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] mentioned that the large public meetings at churches on Sundays have been a fairly recent innovation to attract additional members into the NAACP.

Another source who has furnished reliable information in the past on May 1, 1956, furnished the same information as [REDACTED]

This source also advised that the NAACP and the Montgomery Improvement Association, the organization reportedly behind the boycott of the city buses in Montgomery by Negroes, have recognized the possibility of violent reprisals against both organizations and the leaders thereof. He said that to his knowledge the Montgomery Improvement Association and the NAACP have taken precautions against such occurrences by posting watchers outside of meeting places, usually Negro churches, and by using volunteer watchers who reside in the vicinity of the homes of the leaders. He said that numerous threats have been received by telephone of bombings and other violence but with the exception of the bombings of the residences of Reverend M. L. King, Jr., and E. D. Nixon, both of whom are associated with the Montgomery Improvement Association, no other violence has resulted.

Enclosed with my memorandum of April 18, 1956, was a Photostat of an alleged transcript of a speech made by one Roosevelt Williams at a secret meeting of the NAACP in Mississippi in 1954 [REDACTED]

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

For your information this leaflet has been widely circulated at Montgomery by the citizens council headquarters in that city, variously known as the Montgomery County Citizens Council and the Central Alabama Citizens Council.

Any additional pertinent information received in connection with this matter will be furnished to you promptly.

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

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

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5/18

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office <u>MOBILE</u>	Office of Origin <u>MOBILE</u>	Date <u>5/14/56</u>	Investigative Period <u>5/8,9,11,12,13/56</u>
TITLE OF CASE <u>RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA</u>		Report made by <u>[REDACTED]</u>	Typed By: <u>-spt</u>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <u>CIVIL RIGHTS</u>	

Synopsis:

[REDACTED], reported many "rumors" received concerning the bombings at residences of the Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. and E. D. NIXON at Montgomery in 1956. "Rumors" implicated one T. P. SELLERS. [REDACTED] as person responsible for bombings. [REDACTED] were unable to furnish specific information involving T. P. SELLERS [REDACTED] and were unable to furnish original sources of "rumors".

- P -

DETAILS: AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

[REDACTED] advised that he had heard a rumor around Montgomery, Alabama concerning the bombings of the homes of two of the leaders of the Montgomery bus boycott. It is noted that the

Approved <u>[Signature]</u> Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below		
Copies made: 2 - Bureau (AM) (100-135-61) 2 - Mobile (44-439)	100-135-61-151	RECORDED - 40	INDEXED - 40
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE <u>3/29/83</u> BY <u>[Signature]</u>	29 MAY 27 1956	EX-108	

5 MAY 29 1956

EXP. FILE

MO 44-439

home of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., 309 South Jackson Street, Montgomery, was slightly damaged by a bomb at about 9:30 p.m., January 30, 1956 and that the home of E. D. NIXON, 647 Clinton Avenue, Montgomery, was damaged about 9:45 p.m., February 1, 1956. No injuries were reported in these bombings.

[REDACTED] reported that the rumor was to the effect that the bombings had been done by T. P. SELLERS.

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[REDACTED]

Concerning the bombing of the residence of the Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. on January 30, 1956 and the bombing at the residence of E. D. NIXON on about February 1, 1956 at Montgomery, Alabama, [REDACTED] had heard unverified "rumors" that this violence had been caused by one T. P. SELLERS. SELLERS [REDACTED]

About two weeks after the bombings [REDACTED] started hearing "rumors" involving one T. P. SELLERS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had obtained information from a nurse at this hospital that an unidentified man was admitted to the hospital in February, 1956 having an arm injury caused by an explosion.

During the local trial of the Reverend KING at Montgomery one of the witnesses for KING, among the 15 to 40 who were present in the witness room, reportedly made a statement involving [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] had read a notice, appearing in a Montgomery newspaper from February 7, 1956 to February 24, 1956, advising the legal estate of T. P. SELLERS was to be settled. It set forth that the administrator was the First National Bank of Montgomery, and requested all claims against the estate be filed by April 2, 1956. This is the only information received by [REDACTED] that T. P. SELLERS had in fact died.

[REDACTED] had made considerable inquiry and had failed to develop specific information that T. P. SELLERS was the individual who reportedly had been admitted to St. Margaret's Hospital. He had been unable to establish if there was any relationship between T. P. SELLERS and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had made a concerted effort to trace the original source of the "rumors" received concerning the individual who allegedly was admitted to the hospital and the report that money had been promised anyone for causing the bombings, all without success. [REDACTED]

was unable to furnish the names of any person who could furnish more specific information involving T. P. SELLERS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] expressed the opinion that all reports had been "merely rumors", resulting from such acts of violence as that which had occurred at Montgomery in early 1956.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] information concerning the bombings at the residences of the Reverend KING, JR. and NIXON was learned from hearsay, newspaper accounts, and from conversations with KING and NIXON. [REDACTED] recalled an explosive device did explode on the front porch of KING's home. Two nights later, at about the same time of night, about 9:30 p.m., a similar "bomb" exploded on the front lawn of NIXON's house. Both KING and NIXON had been leaders in the bus boycott movement at Montgomery, Alabama. The damage from both bombings was slight with no injuries resulting.

08 00  
NO 44-439

As to the possible connections of one T. P. SELLERS, [REDACTED] these bombings. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] T. P. SELLERS allegedly was admitted to St. Margaret's Hospital at Montgomery, suffering from injuries received from a "bomb". [REDACTED] recalls the "rumor" which was passed on by [REDACTED] T. P. SELLERS' injury was treated by a physician, not identified, who for some reason "dropped the case". Thereafter T. P. SELLERS was moved to the Veterans Hospital at Montgomery where he died.

[REDACTED]

Although [REDACTED] has subsequently heard this rumor discussed by Negro citizens of Montgomery, he has no idea who, other than [REDACTED] might be able to trace down the rumor. Whenever [REDACTED] has heard the rumors mentioned, after talking with [REDACTED] he has asked the person who mentioned it if that person knew of anyone who had any "firsthand" information. [REDACTED] has never received an affirmative answer.

[REDACTED]

- P -

- 4 -

MO 44-439

LEADS

MOBILE DIVISION

AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Continue to follow pertinent activities relating to the racial situation.

REFERENCES

Buairtel to Mobile, 5/5/56.

Moairtel to Director, 5/11/56.

- ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE -

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	_____

5-20-56

*sub*  
AIRTEL  
AIRMAIL

**BIRMINGHAM (100-3080)**  
**DIRECTOR, FBI (100-135-61)**

RACON

Remyairtel 5-16-56.

Approximately 50 men believed to be members Alabama Citizens Council peacefully picketed "Rock and Roll" musical performance Birmingham Municipal Auditorium May 20, 1956.

About 12 white teenagers also intermingled with above group, displaying placards reading "Long Live Bebop".

Citizens Council group dispersed about 4 p. m., 30 minutes after the performance started.

Bureau will be furnished any additional pertinent developments which may occur.

FULTS

- 3 - Bureau
- 1 - Birmingham

*147* jom

*7C*

*cc: Mr. Belmont*

100-135-61-14  
NOT RECORDED  
126 MAY 29 56

ORIGINAL FILED IN

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DATE *3/29/83* BY *Spindelhoff*

5 JUN 4 1956

MAY 55 1 50 PM '56

FBI  
REC'D-TELETYPE UNIT

FBI

Date: 5/15/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL AIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, MOBILE (44-439)

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

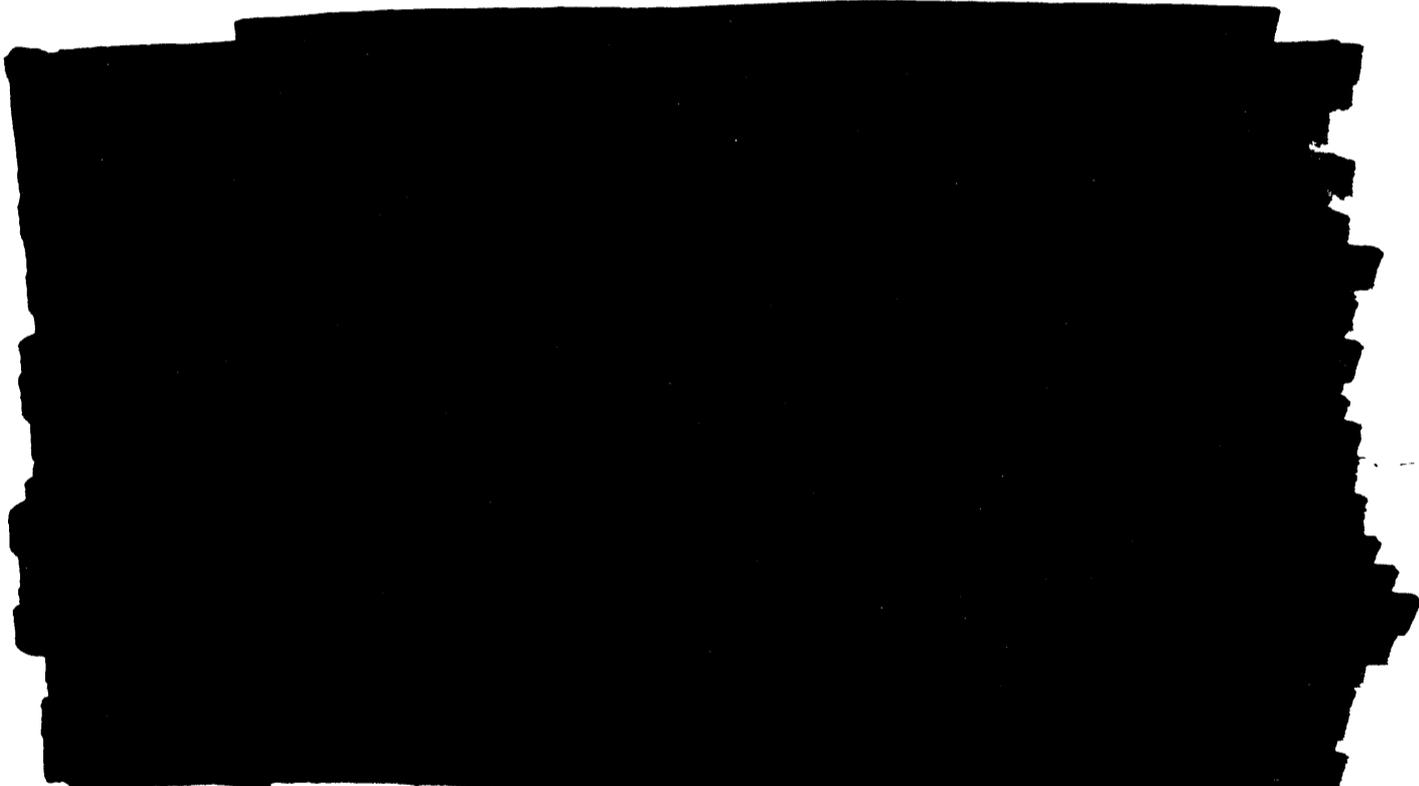
RACIAL SITUATION  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

*Racon*

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DATE 3/29/83 BY [Signature]

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 Bureau memorandum to Assistant Chief of Staff,  
Intelligence, Department of the Army, 5/9/56, captioned  
"SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY, IS - SWP."



*7C  
7D*

- 3 - Bureau (2, 100-135-61)(1, 1-100-16)(RM)
- 3 - Mobile (1, 44-439)(1, 100-110)

*7C*

Mr. Belmont

*b2  
7D*

RECORDED - 17

MAY 17 1956

EX

Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

*5-23-56*

*7C*

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

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cc - Liaison Section  
Mr. [redacted]

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RECORDED - 17

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DATE 8/29/83 BY [signature]

100-135-61

Date: May 23, 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

Reference is made to my memorandum dated  
May 9, 1956, captioned "Socialist Workers Party, Internal  
Security - SWP."

COMM - FBI  
MAY 24 1956  
BY COM [signature]

[redacted]

COMM - FBI  
MAY 23 1956  
MAILED 21

[redacted]

Tolson  
Nichols  
Boardman  
Belmont  
Mason  
Mohr  
Parsons  
Rosen

[redacted]

cc - Assistant Attorney General (By Form O-6, Same Date)

W. C. Sullivan  
F. Tompkins  
Holloman  
Gandy

[handwritten initials and signatures]

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

7D  
[REDACTED]

Any additional pertinent information received in connection with this matter will be made available to you promptly.

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

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

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 \_\_\_\_\_

May 16, 1956

AIRTEL

Birmingham (100-3080)  
 Director, FBI (100-135-61)

RACON

[REDACTED]

Bill Haley and his orchestra, all Negroes, are booked for two performances at Municipal Auditorium 5/20/56.

Birmingham PD advised.

Bureau will be kept informed of developments.

FULTS

3 Bureau (AM)  
 1 Birmingham  
 JE  
 (4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 DATE 3/29/83 BY 3106/pe

100-135-61-✓  
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 126 MAY 29 1956  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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cc- [redacted] Division Section

7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/83 BY [redacted]

105-43703

Date: May 24, 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: ALABAMA CITIZENS COUNCIL  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

7C

COMM-FBI  
SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
MAY 24 1956

This memorandum will confirm information furnished [redacted], Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Army; [redacted], Office of Naval Intelligence; and [redacted], Counter Intelligence Division, Office of Special Investigations, by telephone on May 18, 1956, by Special Agents of this Bureau, [redacted] and [redacted] respectively.

7C  
7D  
MAILED 24  
MAY 24 1956

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Tolson  
Belmont  
Clegg  
Glavin  
Ladd  
Nichols  
Rosen  
Tracy  
Harbo  
Mohr  
Winterrowd  
Tele. Rm.  
Holloman

Assistant Attorney General

FEB 1 1956  
F467

[redacted]

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

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

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

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 5/17/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
STATE OF ALABAMA

BACON

Reurairtel, 5/11/56.

This is to advise that [redacted] advised that the only telephone call she had received in connection with this matter was the one at about 7:00 pm 5/3/56. She stated that this was a local call.

She advised that there had been no further occurrence in connection with this matter other than the night of 5/4/56 they heard a noise at the [redacted] home which sounded like something had been thrown against the side of the house. She stated that they did not go out and check because they were afraid to, and that the following morning they were unable to locate any evidence indicating that anything had been thrown against the house.

2-Bureau (100-135-61 (Rm)  
2-Mobile (100-1342)  
[redacted]:vlw  
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/27/83 BY [signature]

RECORDED - 60

100-135-61-154

27 MAY 21 1956

[redacted]  
INT. SEC. [signature]

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100-135-61-154  
8/56  
[redacted]

EX-111-1100

AIRTEL

May 5, 1956

SAC, Mobile (44-439)

*NACON*  
RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA.

Reurlet 4/10/56.

Enclosed is a copy of Department memorandum dated May 3, 1956, which is self-explanatory. This matter must be immediately assigned for continuous and expedite attention.

You are instructed to interview only [redacted] as requested by the Department for full details in their possession concerning this matter. No further investigation should be conducted and a report should be submitted to reach the Bureau by 5/11/56. A copy of the report should not be furnished to the USA but an extra copy should be available in your file in the event the Department requests a copy be made available to the USA at a later date.

Hoover

*[Signature]*  
Enclosure

RECORDED - 88

100-135-61-143

MAY 8 1956

EX-108

[redacted] pam  
(5)

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

717623  
COMM - FBI  
MAY - 5 1956  
MAILED 31

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY [signature]

*[Handwritten signature]*

cc - [redacted] Prison Section  
cc - [redacted]

7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/27/83 BY [redacted]

100-135

Date: April 18, 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  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

[redacted]

was of the opinion that this literature could cause an armed conflict in the South because of its viciousness. The literature [redacted] consisted of an alleged transcription of a speech made by one Roosevelt Williams at a secret meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Mississippi in December, 1954. He also furnished a one-page pamphlet captioned "Who Are The Race Mixers?" A Photostat of each of these items is enclosed herewith for the information of the agencies receiving copies of this communication.

It is noted that one item of the literature [redacted] is described as issued as an educational service by your "C.A.C.C." which may refer to the Alabama Citizens Council.

Tolson  
Boardman  
Nichols  
Belmont  
Harbo

cc - BUfile 100-135-61 (Mobile Sub)

cc - [redacted] mag

cc - Assistant Attorney General (W/Encls. - 2)  
Warren Olney III (sent by Form 0-6, same date)

(10)

cc - Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins (sent by Form 0-6, same date)  
(W/Encls. - 2)

NOT RECORDED  
APR 13 1956  
MAILED

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN



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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had no knowledge of firearms being sent to Negroes in the South. They stated that according to their sources, Negroes in the South cannot purchase firearms but that white people have reportedly purchased a quantity of firearms.

[REDACTED]

Any additional relevant data obtained in this matter will be made available to you promptly.

Enclosures - 2

- cc - Director of Naval Intelligence (2/Enclosures - 2)  
Department of the Navy  
The Pentagon  
Washington 25, D. C.
- cc - Director of Special Investigations (2/Enclosures - 2)  
The Inspector General  
Department of the Air Force BY COURIER SERVICE  
Building Tempo E  
4th and Adams Drive, S. W.  
Washington, D. C.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

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-NR 4/18/56

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

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

cc - [redacted] 7C

Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

May 28, 1956

100-135-61-158  
Director, FBI

RECORDED - 60

**RACIAL SITUATION  
STATE OF ALABAMA**

Reference is made to my memorandum dated May 14, 1956, concerning an attack on the sons of [redacted] and regarding a threatening telephone call received by [redacted] on May 3, 1956.

[redacted] was recontacted at which time she advised that the only telephone call she had received in connection with this matter was the one at about 7 p.m. on May 3, 1956. She stated that this was a local call.

She advised that there had been no further occurrence in connection with this matter other than on the night of May 4, 1956, they heard a noise at the [redacted] home which sounded as though something had been thrown against the side of the house. She stated that they did not go out to check because they were afraid to do so and that the following morning they were unable to locate any evidence indicating that anything had been thrown against the house.

100-135-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5/24/83 BY [signature]

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

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MAY 28 1956  
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MAY 28 9 40 AM '56

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

6/12

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

DATE: May 29, 1956

*dy* FROM : SAC, Birmingham (100-4639)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

*0*  
*120011*

Remylet dated 3-19-56.

[REDACTED]

in the absence of specific request from the office of origin, Birmingham will conduct no further investigation concerning

[REDACTED]

R U C

- 2 - Bureau (Reg. Mail)
- 1 - Mobile (44-439) (Reg. Mail)
- 1 - Buffalo (100-11429) (Reg. Mail)
- 1 - BH
- 1 - frmb

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1-D

271

RECORDED-59

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

100-135-61-159  
MAY 31 1956

*Boony...*  
*...*  
*...*

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

MAY 28 1956

TELETYPE

FBI, MOBILE

5-28-56

6-06 PM

NPO

DIRECTOR, FBI

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

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, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TALLAHASSEE PD, WHOSE IDENTITY SHOULD BE PROTECTED, ADVISED THIS DATE TWO NEGRO WOMEN WERE ARRESTED ON THE CITY TRANSIT BUS SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MAY TWENTYSIX, FIFTYSIX, AFTER REFUSING TO SIT IN REAR OF BUS. POLICE LIST WOMEN AS WILHELMINS JAKES, AGE TWENTYSIX, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND CARRIE F. PATTERSON, AGE TWENTY, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. BOTH LISTED AS COLORED STUDENTS FLORIDA A AND M UNIVERSITY, TALLAHASSEE. ABOUT NINE FORTY P. M., MAY TWENTYSEVEN FIFTYSIX, A CROSS WAS REPORTED BURNED IN FRONT

OF [REDACTED] ABOUT TWELVE THIRTY TODAY UNIDENTIFIED COLORED MAN REPORTED WITH UMBRELLA BROKE TWO WINDOWS FROM CITY BUS ON SCHEDULE AT A AND M CAMPUS. CITY BUSES STOPPED BY NEGROES IN AUTOMOBILE AND NEGRO PASSENGER ORDERED OFF. NEGRO PASSENGERS REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO LEAVE BUS. [REDACTED] REPORTED ABOUT FIFTEEN HUNDRED NEGROES GATHERED ON CAMPUS AND SURROUNDING STREET. CITY BUS SCHEDULES FOR A AND M CAMPUS STOPPED ABOUT FIVE P. M. TODAY. NO INJURIES REPORTED NO PROPERTY DAMAGE REPORTED OTHER THAN WINDOWS ON BUS. NO

END PAGE ONE ...

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED-20  
INDEXED-20  
JUN 5 1956

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107. [unclear] - 0-6  
6-1-56

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/83 BY [unclear]

100-135-61-160  
5-27-56

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cc - Liaison Section [redacted]

7C

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110-135-61-160

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY [signature]

MJ

Date: June 1, 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  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

7C

This memorandum will confirm information telephonically furnished to [redacted] in the office of Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence; [redacted] Office of Naval Intelligence; and [redacted] Office of Special Investigations, by Special Agent [redacted] of this Bureau on May 28, 1956.

7C

A representative of the Tallahassee, Florida, Police Department advised on May 28, 1956, that two Negro women were arrested on a city bus Saturday afternoon, May 26, 1956, after they refused to sit in the rear of the bus. These women are Wilhelmina Jakes and Carrie F. Patterson, [redacted] and are students at Florida A. & M. University, Tallahassee.

7C

The above source also stated that at approximately 9:40 p.m., May 27, 1956, a cross was reportedly burned in front of [redacted]. This source continued that at approximately 12:30 p.m., May 28, 1956, an unidentified Negro man allegedly with an umbrella broke two windows in a city bus on the campus of Florida A. & M. University.

cc - Assistant Attorney General (By Form O-6, same date)  
William F. Tompkins

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

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[redacted] :oft/sls  
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JUN 12 1956

COMM - FBI  
JUN 1 1956  
MAILED 26

BY COURIER SVC. [redacted]  
70 JUN 4  
COMM - FBI

DEB [redacted]  
[Handwritten signatures and initials]

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

This source also reported that a city bus was stopped by Negroes in an automobile and Negro passengers were ordered to get off the bus. The passengers reportedly refused to leave the bus.

This source also advised that approximately 1,500 Negroes gathered on the campus of Florida A. & M. University and on the surrounding street. City bus schedules serving the campus ceased at approximately 5:00 p.m., May 28, 1956. No injuries were reported and no property damage was reported other than the broken windows in the bus.

Any additional pertinent information received in connection with this matter will be made available to you promptly.

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

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

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 6/1/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY J. B. Cole/jol

Enclosed herewith for the information of the Bureau is one copy each of the following news articles pertaining to the Negro bus boycott in Tallahassee, Florida.

1. Article from the Tallahassee, Florida Democrat, 5/30/56, headed "A&M GETS BUS CASES."
2. Article from the Capital Post, Tallahassee, 5/31/56 headed "BOYCOTT IN 4TH DAY, CITY TAKES NO ACTION BUT MEETING PLANNED."
3. Editorial in the Capital Post, Tallahassee, 5/31/56, entitled "TOO MUCH AT STAKE!"

2 - Bureau (Encl. 3)  
1 - Mobile (100-1361)  
lo

7C

*copy to Jacksonville  
5/20/56  
5/27/56*

7C

RECORDED - 73

INDEXED - 79

100-135-61-161

FBI

JUN 4 1956

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5 3 JUN 11 1956

[Redacted stamp]

INDEXED

# A&M Gets Bus Cases

## Moved From City Court; Boycott Now Full Scale

By DON MEIKELJOHN  
Democrat Staff Writer

The cases of two Negro coeds at Florida A&M College who were arrested Saturday on a City Transit Bus have been turned over to college officials, Police Chief Frank Stoutamire said today.

Stoutamire said the action was taken after a long distance telephone conversation with City Court Judge John A. Rudd, who is in Miami.

The move followed the launching of a city-wide boycott against the bus company by Negroes. Early today many Negroes were reported to be still riding the buses, but many calls were being received by a car pool formed by the Negro group.

"We decided to handle the cases just like we do most Florida State University cases," Stoutamire said.

The two women, Wilhelms Jakes, 26, West Palm Beach, and Carrie Patterson, 20, Lakeland, were scheduled to be tried on charges of placing themselves in a position to incite a riot tomorrow in City Court.

Both were released on \$25 bonds.

The Rev. J. Metz Rollins, one of the leaders in the boycott movement, said as far as he personally was concerned, the action of turning the cases over to A & M officials would not make any difference in the boycott situation.

He said he was not speaking for the newly-formed Inter-Civic Council. "I think it is a matter of principles rather than personalities," the Rev. Rollins said.

A car pool, which amounted to 21 cars at 12 centers, was operating this morning. Dan Speed, a transportation chairman, said between "200 and 300 calls" were received early this morning.

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	_____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY SP3/SLC/gol

THE TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
MAY 30, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
Mofile 100-1361

ENCLOSURE

The Rev. C. K. Steele, local president of the NAACP, was chosen chairman of a new organization to be known as the Inter-Civic Council.

The boycott will continue, according to leaders, until action is taken on a three-point resolution approved at the meeting last night.

Asked for an explanation of the "first come, first served" request, members of the committee said they meant a policy where Negroes would not have to stand if seats were available.

The three points were:

(1) The right to be seated on a first come, first served basis.

(2) More courtesy on the part of bus drivers, and the "ceasing of intimidation of patrons."

(3) The hiring of Negro bus drivers on runs where passengers are predominately Negroes.

The three points were drawn up at a meeting yesterday afternoon. (Continued on Page 11, Col. 2)

From Page 1

## A&M Handed Coed Cases

ernoon, and put into final form by a committee of nine Negro leaders. After the meeting, the group met with City Mgr. Arvah Hopkins and Charles L. Carter, manager of the City Transit Bus Co.—both separately.

### CONTACT PLANNED

Hopkins said he would not comment on the proposals until he has contacted the City Commission. He said he planned to contact the group, but did not know when.

Hopkins said the discussions yesterday were informal, and the Negro said it would present a formal resolution in the near future.

Mayor Fred S. Winterle said he had not been contacted by the group, and knew nothing of the three-point proposal. The Negro leaders said they planned to contact Winterle.

Carter said the bus company is operating under a franchise from the city, and could not do anything without the city's consent.

At the meeting last night, which was attended by about 450 Negroes, E. W. Sanders, State Secretary of the NAACP, said, "I've been in contact with our national office and they told me to come in and make a thorough survey to see what can be done from a legal standpoint. The NAACP is watching every move you make."

Yesterday's developments followed up a boycott of city buses by Florida A & M University students called after the arrest of two Negro coeds of a city bus Saturday afternoon, and the burning of a cross in front of the women's home Sunday night.

At a regular meeting of the Ministerial Alliance at noon yesterday, a nine-member committee was appointed to draw up the three point program.

Members of the committee were Elbert Jones of the Tallahassee Civic League, who acted as chairman; D. B. Speed, Tallahassee Business League; J. H. Hobbs, president of the Community Defense Club; the Rev. C. P. Allen, member of the Ministerial Alliance; G. W. Conley, representative of the Civic League; the Rev. J. Metz Rollins, representative of the Ministerial Alliance; Dr. James Hudson, president of the Ministerial Alliance; James O. Mobley, president of the State Business League, and the Rev. C. K. Steele, president of the local NAACP and member of the Ministerial Alliance.

After the report of this group was presented at the meeting last night, the committee was discontinued, and a permanent committee, headed by the Rev. Steele was formed.

Other officers in the permanent committee are as follows: K. S. Dupont, vice-chairman; the Rev. J. Metz Rollins, treasurer; Dr. M. C. Williams, secretary, and Dr. James Hudson, chaplain. Speed was appointed transportation chairman.

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	_____

# Boycott In 4th Day, City Takes No Action But Meeting Planned

## May Set Up Inter-Racial Organization

Tallahassee's bus boycott moved into its fourth day today with little open effort on the part of the city leadership to come to grips with the problem, but with some signs that a solution may be in sight.

A committee of local white and Negro citizens will meet this morning to discuss the formation of a permanent inter-racial council in Tallahassee as the first step. Such a committee was suggested yesterday by Dr. Gilbert L. Porter, executive secretary of the Florida Teachers Association.

### WILLING TO DISCUSS

But while local citizens were attempting to seek a solution to the problem, and bus company official Charles L. Carter indicated a willingness for further discussions, city officials contacted by the Capital Post appeared reticent to get involved.

Mr. Carter pointed out that under the franchise held by the company with the city, it would take action of Tallahassee's city commissioners to meet all the requests made by the Negro group at a meeting this week. He said the bus company could take no action on its own.

On Tuesday Mr. Carter met with City Manager Arvah Hopkins, and Negro leaders, in separate meetings, but nothing came out of the conferences.

### INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

Although Mayor Fred Winterle and City Commissioner Billy Mayo would make no public statements about planned action, the Capital Post learned authoritatively last night that the city commissioners, concerned about the problem, individually, had held conferences and meetings with individual Negro leaders in the community.

However, they have reached no group conclusion on future action. Mr. Hopkins withheld comment on the proposals of the newly formed Inter-Civic Council. He said the proposals would be brought up before the city commission "sometime" after he looks them over.

There were many indications that the boycott, first launched by Florida A and M University students on Monday, and broadened yesterday by Negro townspeople, was gaining considerably in effectiveness.

Bus after bus yesterday on the Florida A and M-Frenchtown route was either empty or contained one or two Negro passengers.

(Continued on Page 2)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/83 BY [signature]

THE CAPITAL POST  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
MAY 31, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
Mofile 100-1361

ENCLOSURE

100-1361-61

## Boycott

(Continued from Page 1)

gers. Buses on all other routes were also devoid of Negro patrons.

Mr. Carter estimated there had been a 75 per cent drop in Negro patrons yesterday. He added that it was a holiday, and business may increase today. He said the boycott of the bus lines has been "very orderly" and he has seen no signs of violence or disorder.

### "VERY EFFECTIVE"

Rev. Steele told the Capital Post that the boycott has been "very effective." He said, "it's amazing to me how effective it's been after such short notice," referring to the short time in which the boycott spread after the Tuesday meeting.

Negroes were carried to and from work by cars organized into a pool. Twenty-one cars at 12 centers in various parts of Tallahassee were operating in the pool, according to Dan Speed, transportation chairman of the newly-formed Inter-Civic Council.

### NAACP NOT INVOLVED

Disclaiming any rumors that the NAACP is behind the boycott, Rev. Steele said that the "NAACP has not been in this affair one iota." He asserted they would be called only in the event of a legal fight.

Rev. Steele said that R. W. Sanders, State Secretary of the NAACP, who appeared at the Tuesday meeting, "is here only to make a survey of the situation and report it to the national office."

He told the Post that "many of us who have not had to ride city buses are just now beginning to see and understand some of the things our people have endured throughout the years."

At an orderly meeting in the Bethel Baptist Church Tuesday night, a congregation of about 450

Negro townspeople unanimously approved extending the boycott until some action is taken by the city on the three proposals adopted by the congregation.

They are:

1. That bus patrons be seated on a first-come, first-served basis on all routes. Rev. Steele told the Capital Post that members of his race do not want to stand when there is a vacant seat.

2. That Negro patrons be treated more courteously by bus drivers, and that the drivers stop their intimidation of Negroes.

3. That, "sometime in the future," the bus company would consider hiring Negro drivers on routes predominantly Negro.

### COUNCIL FORMED

At the meeting, the gathering approved the formation of an organization, the Inter-Civic Council. Six officers were elected to the group, and will make no agreements without the consent of the Negro townspeople, Rev. Steele asserted.

The boycott originated on the Florida A and M campus. On Monday afternoon, the entire student body of 2,300 unanimously agreed to refrain from riding city buses. Student body leaders declined to term their action a "boycott."

Student Body President Broadus Hartley told the Capital Post: "In order to prevent placing themselves in humiliating positions, the students decided to refrain from riding the buses until some corrective action is taken."

The A and M student meeting was prompted by the arrest Saturday of two women students, Wilhelmina Jakes, 26, and Carrie F. Patterson, 26, who sat down in the last two vacant seats on a city bus, next to a white woman, and then refused to move when the driver wouldn't return their fare. The white woman did not protest. After the driver asked them to move to the rear, the pair asked for their fare back and said they would leave the bus. The driver, Max Coggins, refused to return the 20 cents and called the police.

The disposition of the girls' case was turned over to A and M officials yesterday, according to Police Chief Frank Stoutmire.

### CROSS BURNED

On Sunday night, a small cross was burned in front of the private home where the two girls lived.

It was believed that the cross-burning contributed largely to the Monday protest by the A and M students.

Student Body President Hartley said students have been humiliated several times by one or two drivers. He said it was the first time any students have been arrested.

He told the Post that A and M students "want to be treated as human beings and citizens."

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 \_\_\_\_\_

An Editorial

**Too Much At Stake!**

It should never have happened at all. And it doesn't have to continue.

We are referring, of course, to the boycott of local buses by FAMU students and members of the Negro community of Tallahassee.

Frankly, we cannot in good conscience join those who would condemn the boycott. Refusal to ride city buses—or to ride taxicabs or to go to the movies or to walk the streets or even to go to work—is a legal democratic remedy used time and time again throughout the course of American history.

And we do not subscribe to the theory that the boycott, or the seating of two Negro FAMU students in the only two seats next to a white woman on a crowded bus, is part of some overall NAACP plot to undermine Southern traditions.

Nor do we subscribe to the theory, practiced apparently by some of our local leaders, that there is no boycott and that somehow it will all blow away and disappear.

There is a boycott. And it is real.

It represents a formal protest by a great many citizens of Tallahassee. Negro citizens, yes, but citizens of Tallahassee nonetheless. They need to be heard.

They have presented their case. They report mistreatment, discourtesy and intimidation by local bus drivers; a charge denied by bus officials.

The Negroes have suggested a remedy. They ask better treatment of members of their race by the bus drivers. They ask future consideration of the hiring of Negro bus drivers on predominately Negro routes. They ask seating on a first-come, first-served basis so that Negroes will not have to stand when there are empty seats.

Readers of the Capital Post can judge for themselves the merits of their requests and the validity of their claims.

But it never should have happened at all.

The incident itself could have been easily averted. But the real sin, shared by all of us, is that we were caught with our hands in our pockets, whistling in the dark, without the inter-racial machinery to take the necessary action to avert what is still a potentially explosive situation.

THE CAPITAL POST  
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
 MAY 31, 1956  
 DON PETIT, EDITOR

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
 Mofile 100-1361

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY [signature]

ENCLOSURE

We have the assurance of the Negro groups that ~~they are~~ not motivated by vindictiveness or hate. The way they have handled the boycott to date seems to bear out their claim.

But do we have the assurance that all the people of Tallahassee, like the small-minded men who burned the cross the other evening, will remain calm and hold their tempers? It takes only one hot-head to create an incident. It takes only one inflamed and distorted mind to create violence.

But it takes only informed and aggressive leadership to meet this and other similar situations which may arise in the future.

We are confident that the bus boycott will be settled. Perhaps not to the satisfaction of all, but settled for the benefit of all. But what about the next time? The next incident?

In a community which has enjoyed and still enjoys harmonious relationships between the races, it would seem that we would have, now organized and active, a committee composed of leading citizens of both races, working together to solve the problems of both races, so that this kind of a misunderstanding would not have occurred.

It is not too late. Such a committee should be formed. And formed immediately. There's too much at stake to bury our head in the sand.

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 6/4/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Enclosed herewith are two copies of two news articles captioned "3-POINT PLAN IS AWAITED", and "INTER-RACIAL COUNCIL WILL BE FORMED," which articles deal with the city bus boycott now in effect at Tallahassee, Florida. These articles appeared in the 5/31/56 edition of The Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, daily newspaper.

- 2 - Bureau (Encl. 4)
  - 1 - Mobile (100-1361)
- lo

(3)

7C

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/83 BY 4306/90

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100-135-101-162

25 JUN 6 1956

63 JUN 15 1956

FBI

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JUN 11 1956

...

COPIES

# 3-Point Plan Is Awaited

## Bus Boycott Resting On Dead Center Here

By DON MEIKLEJOHN  
Democrat Staff Writer

Action on a three-point proposal drawn up by Negro leaders boycotting city buses stood on dead center today as City and bus company officials awaited receipt of a written statement of what the Negroes want.

Neither the bus company, the city nor the press has been able to get the proposals in writing and Bus Manager Charles Carter said before he can move he wants to know exactly what is meant by point one in the demand that all seating should be on a "first come, first served" basis.

Negro leaders explained to reporters when they first announced their decision that they meant they wanted a situation which would require no Negro to stand if there were vacant seats in a bus.

Carter said that has been a policy on buses running between the Negro sections, but added "obviously we have to operate under a city franchise" and the laws of Florida which require segregation of the races.

The Rev. C. K. Steele, local NAACP president and leader in a Negro boycott of City buses, was arrested after he picked up a carload of passengers in his car in what police described as a "routine traffic arrest."

The Rev. Steele was charged with running a stop sign at Gadsden and Park Avenues and with speeding 35 miles an hour in a 25 mile an hour zone by Officer Burl Peacock.

Peacock said he did not know Steele and the arrest was routine.

Peacock said he followed Steele's car, a tan and lemon colored Cadillac, for several blocks to check his speed before making the arrest. The car Steele was driving is owned by Primus Harris, 1103 Clay St.

### DENIES CHARGES

Steele said he picked up some passengers at Park and Monroe Streets, and denied he was speeding or ran the stop sign. He said he would fight the case in City Court.

Steele was released without (Continued on page 6, Col. 5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY SP3 CLK/gcl

THE TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
MAY 31, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
Mofile 100-1361

ENCLOSURE 100-135-11-11

## 3 Point-Plan Now Awaited

bond, and is scheduled to appear in City Court June 4.

Many Negroes were still riding the buses today as Negro leaders estimated the effectiveness of the boycott at between 50 and 75 per cent.

Three A & M College buses left the Monroe Street-Park Avenue stops with no passengers during a usually busy 35 minute period this morning.

Between 7:25 and 8 a.m. today 12 Negroes boarded 10 local buses at the downtown stop. Seven of them got on an Indian Head Acres bus at 7:45. One of the 10 buses was full, a Beard Street run mostly with white school children.

Eleven of the Negroes boarded southbound buses at the intersection and nine others, heading north, were given rides by private automobile owners.

Dan Speed, transportation chairman of the Negro group, said each of 13 stations has averaged about 85 passengers both in the afternoon and morning, bringing the total number being hauled in private cars to 1,232.

### RESOLUTION READIED

City Manager Arvah Hopkins said he has not received a formal resolution from the group, and planned no action without consulting the City Commission.

The Rev. Steele said the formal resolution had not been drawn up for submission to the City Commission.

The three point resolution is as follows:

(1) The right to be seated on first come, first served basis. (Negro leaders said this point meant a policy where Negroes would not have to stand if seats were available.)

(2) More courtesy on the part of drivers, and the "ceasing of intimidation of patrons."

(3) The hiring of Negro bus drivers on runs where passengers are predominately Negroes.

The bus company's position on the three-point resolution was outlined in a formal statement by Carter today.

Carter's statement is as follows:

"The only complaint over which I have jurisdiction is courtesy. We have always tried to render courteous service to the public. Our drivers have been instructed to be polite to all our customers, as in any business. There may be instances where the instructions are not followed. There will also be instances where erroneous interpretations are placed on occasion. We also believe that the present situation has been grossly exaggerated, but be that as it may, we are always seeking to improve our service. If better and more courteous service is possible, that is what we want and are all striving for."

On the seating request, Carter said, "Our franchise calls for segregation. That demand is beyond our hands."

The hiring of Negro bus drivers also is covered by the segregation ordinance, which allows no Negro bus drivers," Carter said.

City officials said they could not comment on the city ordinance provisions until the return of City Attorney James Messer Jr., who is out of town.

The cases of two Negro boys at Florida A & M University have been turned over to University officials by the City. It was their arrest Saturday and a cross burning incident in front of their home Sunday night that set up the original boycott by Negro University students.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**Inter-Racial  
Council Will  
Be Formed**

An unofficial committee of white and Negro leaders agreed today to try to bring about formation of a permanent inter-racial council here to solve problems between the races "at their outset by peaceable and orderly methods."

The organizing group, whose members may not be on the council finally set up, emphasized that settlement of the current bus boycott is not involved in their plans because it is a situation that has already developed.

The committee of five white men and five Negroes drew up this statement of purposes:

"Our objective is a permanent long range organization to establish communications between representatives of the varied points of view in the community, to build bridges of understanding between the races, to solve problems at their outset by peaceable and orderly methods through full and frank discussions, both among members of the committee and with private and official parties concerned.

**'NOT THE PURPOSE'**

~~It is not the purpose of this~~ committee to develop any program of action nor to endorse or suppress any program of action on the part of either race."

The organizers agreed to seek members for the council who will come as close as it is possible to get to representing all points of view on inter-racial matters.

A method of selecting the council membership was deferred until another meeting, to be called in a few days.

Such a council first was suggested by Dr. Gilbert Porter, executive secretary of the Florida State Teachers' Assn., state-wide organization of Negro public school teachers.

He said Monday "a cake of ice" had developed between leaders of the races and that such things as the bus boycott could be "stopped before they started" if there were an inter-racial committee to act as a sounding board.

**MEETING CALLED**

Editors of The Tallahassee Democrat took the idea to five prominent white leaders, and at their suggestion called a meeting of Negro leaders who selected five men to sit with the white delegation today.

Members of the organizing group are Porter, Rev. David H. Brooks, pastor of St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal Church; Dr. Robert Greenberg, vice president of the council of Tallahassee civic clubs; Dr. James Hudson, Florida A & M University chaplain; Dr. Glenn James, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church; James Mobley, vice president of the Negro Civic League; Dr. Sam Neel, dean of men at Florida State University; Frank D. Moor, vice president of Midyette-Moor Insurance Co., Dan Speed, president of the Tallahassee Negro Business Men's League; and Blair Stone, president of the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/83 BY sp3cl/gcl

THE TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
MAY 31, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
Mofile 100-1361

ENCLOSURE

100-1361-16

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 5/31/56

*FEB*  
FROM : SAC, Mobile

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
STATE OF ALABAMA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/24/83 BY *sp3 clg/ycl*

*RACON*

[REDACTED]

On 5/19/56, the Selma, Alabama Police Department and Special Agent [REDACTED] Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division, Internal Revenue Service, Selma, Alabama, were notified [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are five copies of a blank memo in order that the information developed at Mobile may be disseminated by the Bureau to G-2, ONI, OSI and the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division.

The Bureau is advised that a copy of this blank memo is being furnished on a local basis to G-2, ONI and OSI, and that the information has been orally furnished to [REDACTED] Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division, Selma, Alabama. A copy of this memo is also being furnished to Chicago.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- 2-Bureau (100-135-61) (Encls. 5) (REGISTERED)
- 2-Chicago (100-31900) (Encl. 1) (REGISTERED)
- 2-Mobile (100-1342)

vlw

(6)

RECORDED-41

INDEXED-41

JUN 4 1956

62 JUN 15 1956

*Let Mr. Dwight E. Davis w/c of [REDACTED] sent. 7/8/67/56. v RCSI, [REDACTED]*

*COPIES PROC. 7C*

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*INT. SEC.*

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 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:  
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cc - Liaison  
Mr. [REDACTED]

JUN 3 7C

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100-135-61 -163

**Date:** June 7, 1956  
**To:** Mr. Dwight E. Avis  
Director  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division  
Internal Revenue Service  
Washington 25, D. C.  
**From:** John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
**Subject:** RACIAL SITUATION  
STATE OF ALABAMA

Reference is made to my previous memoranda dated March 30, 1956, April 4, 1956, and April 12, 1956,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

There is enclosed herewith a copy of a memorandum dated May 31, 1956, concerning the results of this interview.

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/83 BY [REDACTED]

RECEIVED DEPT OF JUSTICE  
FBI  
JUN 15 1956

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mason \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- ady \_\_\_\_\_

[REDACTED] mag

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63 JUN 15 1956

COMM - FBI  
JUN 7 1956  
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F B I

Date: 5/30/56

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	

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, MOBILE

RE: RACIAL CONDITIONS  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

*McGowan*

*[Handwritten signature]*

Re Mobile teletype to Director, 5/28/56.

On 5/29/56, [redacted]

[redacted] advised that no further acts of violence or demonstrations have occurred in connection with incidents described in mytel to Bureau dated 5/28/56. City buses continue to run on schedule throughout Tallahassee without any further incidents, however, since evening of 5/28/56, there has been a very noticeable tendency on the part of negroes to not ride the buses.

7C  
7D

[redacted] advised that [redacted]

[redacted] is using instant situation at Tallahassee to "spread the bus boycott."

Approximately 75 negro leaders at Tallahassee attended a closed session meeting at Bethel AME Church on 5/29/56. Members of the negro ministerial alliance, representatives of the Fla. A & M University student government and several negro civic groups are alleged to have attended the meeting for the purpose of discussing the Tallahassee city bus situation.

RECORDED - 79

[Large redacted block]

JUN 8 1956

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau is one copy of a news article from the Florida Times Union, Jacksonville, Fla., 5/29/56, headed "Negroes Vote to Walk;"

3 - Director (REGISTERED)  
(3 encls.)

Mr. Belmont

2 - Mobile (100-1361)

[redacted]-bls (5)

Approved: *[Signature]* Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per *[Signature]*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/21/83 BY sp3clp/pc

RECEIVED JUN 11 1956

7C

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following message via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI 5/30/56

RE: RACIAL CONDITIONS  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

editorial from Tallahassee Democrat, 5/29/56, headed  
"A Minor Incident . . . If" and article from the Tallahassee  
Democrat 5/28/56, headed "FAMU Students Start Boycott of  
City Buses."

The Bureau will be kept advised of any  
further pertinent developments in this matter.

HALLFORD

*cc Mr Belmont*

- 2 -

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

PRICE: DAILY, 5c; SUNDAY, 15c

★ ★

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, MONDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 28, 1956

# FAMU Students Start Boycott Of City Buses

## Action Follows Cross Burning

The Florida A and M student body started a boycott of buses operating in Tallahassee, after two women students were arrested Saturday afternoon for refusing to move to the rear of a bus.

Student Body President Broadus Hartley said petitions calling for the boycott were being circulated shortly after a meeting at noon attended by 2,300 students.

At 2 p.m., the first bus after the boycott went through the campus empty, followed by a police escort. Students cheered, and one yelled, "We'll walk." There was no violence.

Manager Charles Carter of Cities Transit Inc., which operates buses within the city under a franchise, said he had not been notified of the boycott and had seen no indication of it shortly after noon.

City Manager Arvah Hopkins said he had not heard of the plan.

President George Gore of Florida A & M University is out of town, and University officials said a formal statement will be made after his return sometime tomorrow.

### ARRESTED SATURDAY

Wilhelmina Jakes, 26, and Carrie Patterson, 20, were arrested Saturday afternoon when they sat next to a white woman on a Cities Transit bus front seat and refused to move to the rear. They were charged with placing themselves in a position to cause a riot.

Last night, a cross was burned in front of the house in which they lived and both students moved to a dormitory on the college campus. University officials are looking into details of the arrests.

Bus driver Max Coggins told police the two women boarded the bus on South Adams St. and sat down on a front seat next to a white woman. He said they refused his order to move to the rear of the bus.

The two women said they boarded the bus and found only two seats in the front. They said they were asked to move but told the driver they preferred to leave the bus if they could have their fare refunded. They said the driver called police instead.

Police and firemen were called to the women's home about 3 a.m.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83

By [signature]

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 28 1956	
FBI - TALLAHASSEE	

Tallahassee "Democrat"

5/28/56

RACIAL SITUATION

TALLAHASSEE, FLA.

GDM

ENCLOSURE

100-135-1-114

4

# Tallahassee Democrat

Tuesday, May 29, 1956

## A Minor Incident . . . IF

There doesn't seem to be anything in the Tallahassee bus incident to cause excitement—IF all parties concerned will keep cool heads and do a little thinking and reasonable talking before they act further.

Like so many incidents which during in-temperate times flare into major conflicts, this one appears to have been a matter of little things and misunderstandings at the beginning.

The two Florida A. and M. women students may have been impelled by a misunderstanding of what the United States Supreme Court ruled was their right in intrastate bus seating. They could hardly be blamed. The Supreme Court was so vague in its decision that even experienced judicial news reporters were fooled into first writing that it had ruled segregation in intrastate buses was unconstitutional. It wasn't until days later that lawyers discovered the ruling wasn't that broad at all.

If, as the two students claim, they asked for their fares back rather than have to stand in a bus where there were vacant seats, it would seem that the bus company and the community could have been spared an embarrassing and volatile in-

cident if their dimes had been refunded.

The burning of the cross in front of the students' home naturally was something that would inflame the fears of members of their race, but it was such a crude little thing that it could have been no more than a prank or a one-man demonstration of no significance.

The A. and M. Student body, from all accounts, has refrained from any attempt at violent demonstration. Indeed, the students' actions have been more orderly than we might have expected from almost any campus at the end of the term.

The most disturbing element in the picture is the statement of the president of the Tallahassee chapter of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People that the boycott will be carried beyond the campus.

The NAACP, probably as a result of the tone of the governorship campaign recently has undertaken a drive for new members here.

If that organization, or any other, seizes upon this incident and agitates it for the purpose of enlisting members or soliciting funds we may be in for a rough time.

We hope the level heads among both races will prevail.

RE: RACON  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.

From The Tallahassee Democrat  
(Editorial page)  
5/29/56

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/2/83 BY [signature]

JBI  
100-135-11-104

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 30 1956	
FBI - TALLAHASSEE	

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE

TO

FROM

SUBJECT

**NEGROES VOTE TO WALK**

**FAMU Students Cheer Empty Bus  
On Campus After Seating Arrests**

TALLAHASSEE, May 28 (AP)—Students at Florida A. & M. University for Negroes cheered and clapped their hands as an empty city bus was driven through the campus this afternoon.

This appeared to be the start of a boycott of city buses called by a large part of the student body in protest against the arrest of two girl students after they had refused to move to the rear of a city bus.

The bus was followed by a police patrol car, but Police Chief Frank Stoutamire said this was "merely coincidence" and that no orders had been given to escort the buses.

Several hundred students staged a mass meeting on the campus at noon and voted to stay off city buses for an indefinite period.

Brodus H. Hartley, president of the student body, said arrest of the two was the latest "in a series of incidents in which we have been humiliated by bus drivers."

"I would not call it a boycott," Hartley said. "We are just refraining from riding the buses until we can have assurances that we will receive better treatment."

Charles Carter, manager of the Cities Transit Co., said "it just has not happened" when asked about Hartley's charges Negro students had been humiliated.

The two girl students, Wilhelmina Jayes, 28, and Carries Patterson,

20, were arrested Saturday after they refused to move to the rear of a city bus. They were charged with placing themselves in a position to cause a riot, and released on \$25 bond each.

A hearing for the two girls will be held in police court Friday.

Police reported a cross was burned last night on the front lawn of the house where the two roomed.

Eloise Kendrick, who owns the house, said a car drove up in front of her home about 10 p.m., stopped a few minutes, then drove off at high speed.

One of the girls found a small cross of crude wooden construction burning fiercely. The Kendrick woman said the two girls became frightened and moved into the college dormitory.

The girls said the only two unoccupied seats in the bus were in the front, and that when they sat there, the driver ordered them to stand in the rear. They said they then offered to get off if the driver would return their fare, but that he refused.

President George Gore of Florida A. & M. was out of the city, and university officials said a formal statement would be made after his return tomorrow.

A reporter who was on the campus said about 500 students congregated near the administration build-

ing cheered and clapped when the empty bus drove by.

"It was more like a group of students cheering at an athletic event and wasn't particularly noisy," he said.

The students were congregated at the administration building to get their year books, pick up report cards and transact other business relative to closing of the school term. The university has an enrollment of about 2,600 students.

The Rev. C. K. Steel, president of the Tallahassee chapter of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, said tonight the bus boycott "will be continued beyond the university campus." He declined to elaborate.

Steel also said the NAACP had under study for possible legal action the girls' arrest and the cross burning.

RE: RACON  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.

From The Florida Times-Union,  
Jacksonville, Fla.  
5/29/56

JBH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY [signature]

SEARCHED..... INDEXED.....  
SERIALIZED..... FILED.....  
MAY 29 1956

100-11161-114  
ENCLOSURE

cc - Liaison Section  
Mr. [REDACTED]

7C

100-135-61 - 164

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5/29/83 BY [REDACTED]

RECORDED - 72

Date: June 6, 1956

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

EX-124

Attention: Chief, Security Division

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Reference is made to my memorandum dated June 1, 1956, advising that on May 26, 1956, Wilhelmus Jakes and Currie F. Patterson were arrested in Tallahassee after they refused to sit in the rear of a city bus.

On May 29, 1956, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that no further acts of violence or demonstrations have occurred since the arrest of Jakes and Patterson. City buses continue to run on schedule throughout Tallahassee without incidents; however, since the evening of May 26, 1956, there has been a noticeable tendency on the part of Negroes not to ride the buses.

BY COURIER SVC

76 JUN 7

COMM - FBI

[REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] is using this situation in Tallahassee to spread the bus boycott.

Approximately 75 Negro leaders in Tallahassee attended a closed meeting on May 29, 1956. Members of the Negro Ministerial Alliance, representatives of Florida A and M University student government in Tallahassee and several Negro civic groups reportedly attended the meeting to discuss the city bus situation in Tallahassee.

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

cc - Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins (sent by Form 0-6, same date)

mag 271  
7C (8)  
Macy  
[Handwritten initials]

COMM FBI  
for all copies  
JUN 6 1956  
A.F.  
MAILED 20

[Handwritten signatures and initials: J.P. [unclear], A.B. [unclear], F.P.S. [unclear], W.C. [unclear], M.P. [unclear]]

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

7C  
  
Any additional pertinent information received  
in connection with this matter will be made available  
to you promptly.

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

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

cc - Liaison Section  
Mr. [REDACTED]

7C

100-135-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY sp3cle/jcl

Date: June 7, 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  
STATE OF ALABAMA

Reference is made to my previous memoranda  
dated March 30, 1956, April 4, 1956, and April 12,  
1956.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

7C  
7D

of record - [unclear]

There is enclosed herewith a copy of a  
memorandum dated May 31, 1956, concerning the results  
of this interview.

RECORDED - 7)

COMM-FBI  
EXCEPT AF  
JUN 7 1956  
MAILED 19

Enclosure EX-109

100-135-61-145

cc - Director of Naval Intelligence (w/Enclosure)  
Department of the Navy  
The Pentagon  
Washington 25, D. C.

JUN 8 1956

cc - Assistant Attorney General  
Warren Olney III (sent by Form 0-6, same date)

cc - Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins (sent by Form 0-6, same date)

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

mag  
825 (9)

BY COURIER SVC.  
JUN 8 1956  
W.F.

abm  
w  
w

( )  
( )  
**Letter to Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence  
Department of the Army**

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

**BY COURIER SERVICE**  
**(w/Enclosure)**

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 6/8/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

DATE 3/29/83 BY sp3clt/gol

Enclosed herewith are two clippings from the 6/5/56 issue of the "Tallahassee Democrat," daily newspaper, Tallahassee, Florida, captioned "BUS SERVICE TO FRENCHTOWN, FAMU CANCELED." Instant article sets forth the most recent developments in the boycott of city busses by Negroes at Tallahassee.

- 2 - Bureau (Encl. 2)
- 1 - Mobile (100-1361)
- 10
- (3)

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EET

rec to [redacted]

RECORDED - 80 100-135-61-106

JUN 13 1956

7C

[redacted]

7C

Vertical stamp and handwritten marks on the right margin.

## Bus Service To Frenchtown, FAMU Canceled

Buses were pulled off the Florida A & M and Frenchtown runs yesterday with authorization of the City Commission.

The commission also turned down a full integration request by the Negro Inter-Civic Council which has led a boycott movement for a week.

The Rev. C. K. Steele, president of the Inter-Civic Council, said "We're going to keep on. We're going to pray, trust in God, and do whatever else we can do to reach some fair and equitable terms with the city and bus company officials."

Car pools to transport Negroes were still operating.

It took only 10 minutes for the commission to handle the two actions, both by unanimous votes.

The first vote rejected the Negro proposals for settlement. After they were read in full, the Commission asked for comments from Ben C. Willis, who is handling the city attorney job in the absence of James Messer.

Willis said the Negro request to sit "wherever they choose" on buses would require the repeal of segregation provisions in the bus franchise.

He also said the request for Negro bus drivers is a company matter, which does not come under City authority by franchise provisions. The demand that bus drivers be constantly reminded of obligation to

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

From Page 1

## Bus Service To Frenchtown, FAMU Canceled

der courteous service also falls under the company, he said.

The City Commission in a statement which the Negroes turned down at their Sunday mass meeting had said it expected the bus company to make all reasonable efforts to see that its drivers treated passengers courteously. It also said the company had agreed to take applications for drivers' jobs from Negroes and give them consideration for employment when vacancies arise.

The bus company's petition to abandon the "Florida A & M and Frenchtown" runs was based on a contention that the operation is no longer profitable since most of the "patrons on said routes have voluntarily ceased to use bus service."

The action was taken under authority of a franchise provision that allows changes in bus routing "by mutual consent." The action is permanent until changed by agreement of both parties.

Immediately after the Commission's action, buses were pulled off the two Negro runs.

In yesterday's written statement, the Negroes dropped the "first come, first served" phrasing of their original oral request and said flatly they want to sit where they choose on the buses.

The City's interpretation of the franchise called for first come, first served on the last double seat in a bus, but said white and Negro passengers could not sit in the same seat.

It also said a person of one race who is occupying the last seat cannot be required to surrender the seat.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY [signature]

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JUNE 5, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Mofile 100-1361

100-61-166

CONFIDENTIAL

STANDARD FORM NO. 64  
**Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

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

DATE: 6/7/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (44-439)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DATE 3/29/83 BY SP3 BJA/yc

For the information of the Bureau attached are two copies of newspaper item appearing in Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, 6/5/56, captioned "CITY BUS SEGREGATION DOOMED IN RULING BY FEDERAL COURT."

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

7C  
10  
131

EX-131

RECORDED - 79

INDEXED - 79

100-135-61-167

14 JUN 11 1956

EX-131

52 JUN 19 1956

7C

INT. SEC.

EX-131

# City Bus Segregation Doomed In Ruling By Federal Court

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3/clj/gcl

*one copy of  
this clipping to  
be placed in  
file  
6/11/56*

Alabama Journal  
Montgomery, Alabama  
Date June 5, 1956  
Page One

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Bufile: 100-135-61  
Mofile: 44-439

*100-135 (1) 1*

- / - ENCLOSURE

## Judgment Held Up For 2 Weeks On Plea Filing

A three-judge federal court panel ruled city bus segregation laws in Alabama unconstitutional but delayed issuing a formal order to carry out the decision.

The court in a 2-1 opinion ruled that state and city laws, specifically in Montgomery, violate the 14th Amendment of the U. S. Constitution.

Judge Richard T. Rives of the 5th U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals and District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. of the Middle District of Alabama signed the majority opinion. Judge Seybourn Lynn of the Northern District of Alabama dissented saying separate but equal facilities are acceptable.

### 2 WEEKS GIVEN

The court gave opposing attorneys two weeks to file in writing their views on how the formal judgment should be entered and whether a stay should be granted pending an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Although the four Negro women who filed the suit asked for an injunction to stop segregation in Montgomery, none was issued today pending the court's formal order later.

However, Johnson said it would apply only to Montgomery even though the court has ruled state segregation laws invalid. To apply it to another city probably would require a court order there based on today's decision.

### CITY DEFERS ACTION

The Montgomery City Commission said this afternoon, "We feel that it would be improper to determine our course of action" in regard to bus segregation until a formal judgment is rendered by the federal court.

The Commission issued this prepared statement:

"We have just read the opinion which we received this morning from the federal court. As we understand it, it is the opinion of Judges Richard T. Rives and Frank M. Johnson Jr. that statutes and ordinances which require segregation of white and colored races on motor buses of a common carrier in the city of Montgomery and its police jurisdiction violate the due process and equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and that it is the opinion of Judge Seybourn Lynn that the principle of separate but equal accommodations for white and colored is still the law.

"As we understand further a formal judgment will not be entered until after all parties in the case submit to the court their views as to the form of judgment that should be entered.

### JUDGMENT AWAITED

"We interpret this to mean that the matter is in status quo until the formal judgment is entered.

"The matter of filing a statement and reference to the federal court will, of course, be handled by the legal department of the city.

"We feel that it would be improper to determine our course of action until a formal judgment is rendered by the court."

C. C. (Jack) Owen, president of the Alabama Public Service Commission, declined comment on the federal court ruling until he had time to give it a thorough study.

The Rev. M. L. King, pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and president of the Montgomery Improvement Assn., said he was happy to hear of the decision.

"I think all people of good will will accept the court's ruling as a great victory for democracy and justice, not only for 50,000 Montgomery Negroes, but for people everywhere."

The PSC, also a defendant, (See SEGREGATION, Page 2-A)

(Continued From Page 1)

asked to be dismissed from the suit on the grounds that the state agency exercises no jurisdiction over city buses, but the court overruled that request.

The decision came on the sixth month of Montgomery's Negro bus boycott which started last Dec. 5 in protest against segregated seating facilities on city buses. The suit in federal court which led to today's decision was filed by four Negro women who testified at a hearing on May 11 that they have refused to ride city buses since the mass protest began.

### RULING CAN BE APPEALED

Today's ruling can be appealed direct to the Supreme Court and may provide the first clearcut test of city bus segregation in the South.

The Fourth U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals at Richmond, Va., had previously ruled bus segregation unconstitutional in Columbia, S. C., but sent the case back to the trial court for a determination of damages.

The Supreme Court on April 23 dismissed an appeal from the Court of Appeals ruling, but two of the judges sitting on the panel here, commented at the hearing last month that in their opinion the Supreme Court hadn't passed on the segregation issue itself, but rather dismissed the appeal because the case was still pending in the lower courts.

Since no question of damages was involved in the suit here, an appeal would go directly to the

Supreme Court to uphold or reverse the panel's findings.

#### CONCUR IN DECISION

Agreeing with the earlier decision of the Court of Appeals at Richmond, the majority opinion here today said, "we cannot in good conscience perform our duty as judges blindly following the precedent" of the separate but equal doctrine.

In fact, the two judges said, "we think that Plessy vs. Ferguson (the case in which the Supreme Court handed down the separate but equal decision in 1896) has been impliedly, though not explicitly overruled, and that under the later decisions there is now no rational basis upon which the separate but equal doctrine can be validly applied to public carrier transportation within the city of Montgomery and its police jurisdiction. The application of that doctrine cannot be justified as proper execution of the state police power."

Continuing, Rives and Johnson said, "we hold that the statutes and ordinances requiring segregation of the white and colored races on the motor buses of a common carrier of passengers in the city of Montgomery and its police jurisdiction violate the due process and clauses of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution of the U. S. Lynne, in his dissent, said "the supremacy of the federal government in matters affecting interstate commerce is axiomatic. Cases involving the exercises of its power that realm shed no light on 14th amendment problems."

"It does seem quite clear," he

continued, "that by its terms the Congress is given the power and duty to enforce the 14th Amendment by legislation. Thus the Congress would have the power, thus derived, to proscribe (prohibit) segregation in intrastate transportation. It is worthy of note that for 60 years it has not seen fit to do so."

Lynne said that Congress' reticence to intrude upon the internal affairs of the several states should caution us against doing so where the path of duty is not plainly marked and when we must hold a clear precedent of the Supreme Court outmoded.

"Because I would dismiss the action on the authority of Plessy vs. Ferguson, I do not reach the procedural questions discussed in the majority opinion. I respectfully dissent."

The prolonged bus boycott, focusing worldwide attention on a city whose population of 125,000 is made up of some 50,000 Negroes, was the first wholesale use of economic force by either race since the Supreme Court's school integration decision two years ago.

**FEW NEGROES RIDE BUSES**  
Since the boycott began last Dec. 5 in protest against the arrest of a Negro seamstress who refused to move to the colored section of a bus, the Negro passenger load has been only a fraction of normal.

Where buses once carried 30,000 to 40,000 Negro riders daily, the company says only 300 to 400 are riding now.

Instead, the boycotters rely on a smooth-functioning car pool which takes them to and from work without charge. Operated by the newly organized Montgomery Improvement Assn., the motor pool uses scores of privately owned cars and 14 new model station wagons purchased in the name of Negro churches.

The Improvement Association was organized the day the boycott started. Leaders said its purpose was to improve the "general welfare" of the Negro community, but their efforts thus far have been devoted almost entirely to the boycott.

Funds have come from contributions by Negroes outside Montgomery and from donations received at the Negro church rallies held twice weekly in Montgomery since the protest began. The car pool itself costs an estimated \$3,000 a week.

The suit challenging constitutionality of the city and state segregation laws was filed in federal court Feb. 1, the same day a bomb exploded outside the home of a boycott leader, E. D. Nixon, and on the day that the city commission adopted a "get tough" policy toward the boycotting Negroes.

The explosion at Nixon's home came 48 hours after a dynamite bomb was tossed at the home of another Negro leader, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., a 27-year-old Baptist minister. No one was injured in either incident.

After a Montgomery county grand jury later that month indicted more than 90 boycott leaders, including 25 clergymen, King was the first called to trial and was fined \$500. He has appealed to higher courts, and the other trials have been postponed pending the outcome.

The indictments charged violation of a state law which prohibits boycotting without a "just cause or legal excuse."

Five Negro women originally signed the complaint in federal court, but one of them withdrew her name. Jeaneatta Reese told Mayor W. A. Gayle in the presence of newspapermen that she didn't know what she was signing.

That statement prompted the

grand jury to indict Negro Atty. Fred Gray for unlawful practice on the grounds that he filed the suit for the woman without her consent. State authorities subsequently dismissed the indictment because the alleged offense was committed in the federal building, on federal property.

The four remaining plaintiffs, Aurelia Browder, Susie McDonald, Mary Louise Smith and Claudette Colvin, testified before the three-judge panel on May 11 that they had been ordered at one time or another to give up their seats in white sections of the city buses.

City attorneys tried to show that the Negroes were willing to live under segregation if they could get a "first come, first served" seating arrangement, but the four women insisted they were opposed to segregation in any form.

At one time during the long boycott, the bus company ordered its drivers to stop enforcing segregation laws. That action came after the Supreme Court handed down its April 23 decision dismissing an appeal in the South Carolina bus segregation dispute.

#### ORDER RESCINDED

Circuit Judge Walter B. Jones in state court, however, ordered the bus line to rescind its integration order. He held that the Supreme Court had made no final decision on bus segregation.

Negroes continued to stay off the buses despite the company's brief departure from segregation, however, because city officials had threatened to arrest any passengers or driver who violated the laws.

At a mass meeting, the Negroes overwhelmingly approved the recommendation of their leaders that the boycott should go on until public officials are willing to recognize integration.

59

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 6/7/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

*RAZON*

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

DATE 5/29/83 BY 366/afp

Reference is made to previous correspondence to the Bureau re captioned matter.

As of additional interest, I am attaching the following newspaper items in duplicate:

1. Item appearing in the Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 6/4/56, entitled "COMPANY WANTS TO HALT BUS RUN."
2. Item appearing in the Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 6/4/56, entitled "BOYCOTTERS ARE UNREASONABLE."

2 - Bureau (Encl. 4) ENCLOSURE 43  
1 - Mobile (100-1361)

100-135-61-167

14 JUN 11 1956

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*11*

*Handwritten notes:*  
100-6  
6/11/56  
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*Stamp:* REC-100

*7c*

*Redacted area with handwritten '100-135-61-167' and '14 JUN 11 1956' stamp.*

COPIES

# Company Wants To Halt Bus Run

## Negroes Reject City's Answer To Suggested Plan For Seating

By DON MEIKLEJOHN  
Democrat Staff Writer

The bus company asked the City for permission to stop service on the Florida A. and M. University-Frenchtown run today after Negroes at a mass meeting turned down a City proposal for ending a week-old boycott and called for full integration.

The City Commission didn't act immediately on the bus company request to cancel operations over the route which serves the two biggest Negro sections and is most affected by the boycott. However, comments from city officials indicated approval would be granted.

Rev. C. K. Steele, president of the Negro Inter-Civic Council which was formed to spearhead the boycott, said a three-point proposal submitted by the City was not acceptable to his group.

Whereas the City proposal for bus seating arrangements stopped short of permitting Negroes and white passengers to occupy the same seat, the Council in its first formal statement of what it meant by "first come, first served" called for a ruling that all passengers "shall have the right to sit wherever they choose on any bus."

After last night's meeting, Rev. Steele, said "the group repudiated completely the City Commission position. They want to sit anywhere they want to sit on the bus if they pay their fare, otherwise they're willing to walk."

The Negro Committee's statement issued today said:

"(1) Since the present bus seating arrangement is economically unsound, humiliating, arbitrary, inequitable, inconvenient, and morally unjustifiable;

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5/24/83 BY *hpc/col*

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JUNE 4, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
Mofile 100-1361

ENCLOSURE

From Page 1

all bus passengers shall have the right to sit wherever they choose on any bus, or buses.

"(2) Since people of all races, by their patronage contribute to the support of the bus company, people of all races shall have an opportunity to work for the bus company in various capacities. Employment applications shall be accepted from people of the Negro race, who also want to render service to the public. The most competent of these applicants for bus driver positions shall be hired as bus drivers.

"(3) That all bus drivers be constantly reminded of their never ending obligations to render courteous service, and equitable treatment to all passengers, regardless of race, creed, or color.

The statement was signed by Steele, Rev. K. S. Dupont, Rev. J. Metz Rollins Jr., Dan B. Speed, Dr. M. C. Williams, E. W. Jones, Dr. James Hudson, Father David H. Brooks, and Eddie Barrington.

Leading off the demands was a statement that read: "Events of the past few days have given Tallahassee a great new opportunity for national leadership. This is Tallahassee's hour to add new laurels to her illustrious name. As its public service duty, the Inter-Civic Council of Tallahassee submits the following proposals, and requests that they be put into operation."

Steele said the action was taken without "a may in the house." About 800 to 1,000 persons attended the meeting. A total of \$698.83 was collected at the meeting to be used in continuing the car pool.

Mayor Fred S. Winterle said he planned to call a meeting on the bus company's petition as soon as other Commission members can be contacted. He said the meeting would probably be this afternoon.

City Commissioner W. T. Mayo said today he would favor an immediate meeting to consider the bus company's petition. He said, "I feel the Commission has leaped over backwards to settle the boycott, and do not feel the bus company should be required to continue running buses on a line where the passengers do not wish to ride."

Mayo added, "We have attempted to settle the boycott on the basis of our segregation laws, but the Negroes in their demands have ignored the existence of such laws. I hope the Negro citizens can settle this among themselves and not be guided by outside influences."

The City Commission set out its interpretation of the three-points involved in a statement Saturday night.

In the statement, the Commission interpreted the franchise as meaning: "If a person of one race

takes the last vacant seat in the bus, a member of the other race may not take a seat beside such person, but the seated person is not required to surrender the seat."

On a Negro request for more courteous treatment, the Commission said it expected the company to enforce the rules requiring to treat all passengers courteously. The Commission statement also said the bus company has said it is willing to take and consider applications from Negroes for vacancies in jobs on buses serving Negroes predominately.

A case charging the Rev. Steele with speeding and running a stop sign while operating an auto in the boycott car pool has been set for 9 a.m. Thursday after a plea of not guilty was submitted to City Court Judge John A. Rudd.

The bus company stated in its petition that it has been losing money in its entire operation for the last 12 months as the result of "economic factors beyond the control" of the company.

To avoid further losses, the company said it is necessary to "minimize or eliminate as many loss factors as the circumstances will permit . . ."

The petition stated, "Two of the routes which are least economically stable at this time are the A & M University Route and the Frenchtown Route and, because of present conditions over which petitioner (bus company) has no control, most of the patrons on said routes have voluntarily ceased to use such bus service."

No plans for a special meeting of the City Commission were announced immediately to consider the petition. The next regular meeting of the Commission is at 2:30 p.m. June 12, but bids will be received on . . .

Monday, June 4, 1956

**Boycotters Are Unreasonable**

A mass meeting of Tallahassee Negroes, apparently swayed by the ministers of their larger churches, has refused to consider the City Commission's move to bring an end to their boycott of the buses.

We think the leaders of the boycott movement, who apparently are engaged in a struggle for leadership with more moderate elements of their race, have been unreasonable and have used ill-advised procedures.

At the outset, they didn't seek a single meeting with the City Commission and the bus company, both of which are concerned. They sent committees to bus company and city officials separately. They reported the sentiments of their mass meeting to the white officials by word of mouth, and reported back by word of mouth to their own people. Without something in writing, this could lead only to confusion.

There was confusion over the meaning of the Negroes' call for bus seating on a "first come, first served" basis. Their own first explanation, expressed orally, was that no Negro should be made to stand if there was a vacant seat. They never have even put that in writing.

The City Commission and bus company

agreed on an interpretation that stopped just short of complete integration on the buses, which any realistic appraisal of the situation would show is laden with dangers in view of the present temper and thinking of the people.

Now the Negroes put in writing a statement that they want a ruling that "all bus passengers shall have the right to sit wherever they choose on any bus."

In other words, they want total integration—regardless of State law, city ordinance, franchise provisions or the will of the majority of all the people.

The reaction to a complete boycott based on that ultimatum very likely will be complete removal of the buses from predominantly Negro runs.

The bus company obviously stands to gain nothing by operating empty buses. There is no point in the company risking further incidents.

Maybe suspension or outright cancellation of the service will remove a source of strife and let things cool off to the point that eventually the boycott leaders will want to sit down and talk the matter over man to man with a view to reaching a peaceful and realistic solution.

We're getting nowhere this way.

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JOHN M. TAPERS,  
EDITOR  
JUNE 4, 1956

Re: RACIAL  
SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Mofile 100-1361

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/27/83 BY [signature] ENCLOSURE

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 6/5/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/83 BY [signature]

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Re previous correspondence to the Bureau regarding this matter.

On 6/4/56 SA [redacted] had occasion to discreetly discuss the above situation at Tallahassee with [redacted] and [redacted]. Both stated that the Negroes at Tallahassee have been told by the Negro ministers at Tallahassee that they should not ride the city busses. Accordingly, with very few exceptions, the Negroes are not riding the busses as the boycott enters its second week.

Students at Florida A & M University have gone home for the summer and this temporarily eliminates any further disturbance from that source, according to [redacted] and [redacted].

[redacted]

[redacted] and [redacted] pointed out that the boycott has been orderly and well organized to date. [redacted] and the other local Negro ministers have set up a car pool which cruises by all the bus stops, picks up the Negroes there and takes them to their destinations. No incidents of violence have been reported to date and none are expected. The City Commission was scheduled to meet 6/4/56 with a special committee of Negro citizens in an effort to mediate the disagreement between the Negroes and the bus company.

For the information of the Bureau, I am transmitting herewith two copies each of the following newspaper items:

1. Item from The Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 6/1/56, entitled "LAWYERS SEEK BUS BOYCOTT CLARIFICATION."
2. Editorial from The Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 6/1/56, entitled "POSTPONEMENT COURTS TROUBLE."

2 - Bureau (Encl. 12)  
1 - Mobile (100-1361)

7C  
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EX-109  
RECORDED-41  
INDEXED-41  
6/10/56  
ma cc  
to [redacted]  
WCA  
[signature]

Director, FBI

6/5/56

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

3. Item from The Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 6/2/56, entitled "BUS BOYCOTT TERMS AWAITED."
4. Item from The Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 6/3/56, entitled "CITY COMMISSION MOVES TO END BUS BOYCOTT."
5. Item from The Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 6/3/56, entitled "TEXT OF CITY'S STATEMENT."
6. Item from The Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 5/29/56, entitled "CITY BUS BOYCOTT SCENE VERY CALM; NO DISORDER."

# Lawyers Seek Bus Boycott Solution Here

By DON MEIKLEJOHN  
Democrat Staff Writer

Attorneys for the City Transit Co., City, and Negro Inter-Civic Council met today in an "exploratory conference to clarify issues" as a Negro boycott of City buses moved into its fifth day.

The group was meeting at the office of Charles Ausley, attorney for the bus company. Ben C. Willis is representing the City in the conference in the absence of City Attorney James Messer, and Theries Lindsey of Tallahassee was representing the Negro group.

City and bus company officials conferred last night, but there was no announcement of any decision.

Still the biggest point of confusion is a demand by the Negro group that seating on the buses should be on a "first come, first served" basis.

Attorneys for the three groups said the conference was strictly "exploratory to clarify the issues." There will be no commitments made at the session, attorneys said.

### THREE POINTS

As originally given to reporters the three demands by the Negro group adopted at a mass meeting Tuesday night were as follows:

(1) The right to be seated on first come, first served basis.  
(2) More courtesy on part of drivers, and the "ceasing of intimidation of patrons."

(3) The hiring of Negro bus drivers on runs where passengers are predominately Negroes.

Today's conference was the result of a meeting yesterday afternoon to clarify the three points in the resolution.

Malcolm B. Johnson, executive editor of The Democrat, met with a delegation of more than a dozen Negroes yesterday afternoon. He said it was a conference called at the request of bus company officials to seek a statement in writing of the Negroes' proposals and a clarification of their request that seating on the buses be put on a "first come, first served" basis. "Members of the delegation could not agree on any statement clarifying or explaining" (Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JUNE 1, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
Mofile 100-1361

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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DATE 3/27/83 BY 4p3cl/jpc

100-1361-169

ENCLOSURE

From Page 1

## Lawyers Seek Bus Boycott Solution Here

the exact meaning of the phrase," Johnson said.

### DOUBT AUTHORITY

"In the end, they asked that it be allowed to stand without change or expansion because they said it was the wording of the proposal which was read and voted on at a mass meeting Tuesday night and they doubted they had authority to amend it without another general meeting." When the Tuesday meeting broke up, another was scheduled for next Wednesday.

When the "first come, first served" proposal was announced Tuesday, at a meeting which preceded the mass meeting, members of a committee which was to take it to City and bus company officials told reporters it meant they felt no Negro should be required to stand in a bus if there was a vacant seat.

Johnson emphasized that his meeting with the delegation yesterday was in no sense an effort to mediate or negotiate, but only to obtain a piece of information at the request of the bus company.

### BOYCOTT GAINS

The boycott by Negro passengers was gaining today as most Negroes were walking or riding in a shuttle service ~~car pool~~ formed after the meeting Tuesday night.

This morning at a downtown bus stop between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m., buses pulling into the stop averaged about one Negro passenger to a bus.

About 20 Negroes were sitting on the bus stop benches, but let the buses bypass them, and later got into cars from the pool.

The boycott started Monday afternoon on the Florida A & M campus after the arrest of two Negro coeds on a City bus Saturday, and a cross burning in front of the women's house Sunday night. In rapid developments Tuesday and Tuesday night, the boycott spread into the local Negro community and the car pool was set up.

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DATE 5/29/83 BY J. A. 26/726

100-100-61-189

# City Bus Boycott

## Scene

# Very Calm; No Disorder

### One Sign Is Only Evidence

By DON MEIKLEJOHN  
Democrat Staff Writer

Negro passengers were shying away from riding buses, but the general situation was on an even keel with no demonstrations or outward shows of feeling on a boycott of city buses today.

Most of the students at Florida A & M University, where the boycott activity was generated yesterday, were taking examinations, and nothing out of the ordinary was reported on the campus.

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
MAY 29, 1956  
PAGE 1

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Mofile 100-1361

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DATE 3/27/83 BY 24326/90

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A bus passing through the campus this morning picked up one passenger in front of the Negro Demonstration School, but was otherwise empty. As the bus passed through the campus, no one seemed to pay any attention to it.

The only evidence of a boycott, with the exception of the empty bus, was a sign just off campus which read, "We'll Walk. Fight Segregation."

#### CLOSED MEETING

The Tallahassee Ministerial Alliance, a group of Negro pastors, was meeting in a closed session at noon today at the Bethel AME Church. It was a regular meeting of the organization, but members said the bus situation probably would be discussed.

About 75 Negro leaders were attending the meeting, which is the regular Tuesday meeting of the Ministerial Alliance. In addition to members of the Alliance, representatives of the Florida A & M student government, and several Negro civic groups were attending the meeting.

There was little evidence to indicate the boycott had spread to the Negro community generally, although Rev. C. K. Steele, local president of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People and civic affairs chairman for the ministerial alliance, said he felt personally "the boycott will spread."

Police reported a windshield had been broken on a bus at Florida A & M yesterday about noon, and someone had pushed an umbrella through a side window about the same time.

Charles L. Carter, manager of the City Transit Co., said "I don't know anything about it."

Carter said "as far as I'm concerned, the situation is normal. We are running the same schedules with the same drivers."

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

## Bus Boycott Scene

From Page 1

ers. I have no other statement to make."

The two Negro taxi cab companies reported no great increase in the number of passengers riding cabs. Quick Service Cab Co. said "it's about the same as usual."

At Economy Cab, a "slight increase" was noticed. "Where we got two calls, we were getting three today," an attendant said.

Elbert Jones, president of the Civic League, Negro business men's organization, said he looked into the situation, but found no reason this morning to call his group together for action.

#### 'A LOT OF COMPLAINTS'

He added, however, that "there seems to be a lot of complaints over a period of time that bus drivers have not treated passengers fairly."

Police said their cars were not escorting buses today, and Police Chief Frank Stoutamire said a car trailing a bus through the Florida A & M Campus yesterday was "just a coincidence."

Broadus Hartley, president of the Florida A & M University student body, said "there is no effort to stop anyone from riding the bus," adding there was no evidence of petitions being circulated on the campus.

"This is not the first incident," he said. "The students have been humiliated several times by certain bus drivers. They just feel they don't want to put themselves in a position to be humiliated further," Hartley said.

Rev. J. Metz Rollins, Negro minister who talked with the two girls who were arrested Saturday afternoon on a City Transit bus on a charge of

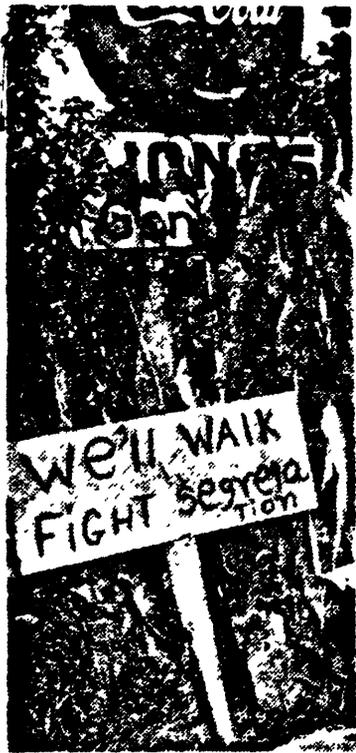
placing themselves in a position to incite a riot, said the girls' version of the incident was as follows:

#### VERSION OF GIRLS

"The girls boarded the bus and sat in the only two seats available on the bus—a long seat in front with a white woman. She did not protest. When the bus driver asked them to move, they said they would rather leave the bus, and asked for their money back. At that time the bus had not moved. The driver said he could not refund the fares and drove about a half block to a filling station and called the police," Metz said.

The two women, Wilhelmina Jakes, 26, and Carrie F. Patterson, 20, were released on \$25 bonds after their arrest. Their case will come before City Judge John Rudd Thursday.

They moved to a Florida A & M dormitory after a cross burning incident in front of their house about 9:57 p.m. Sunday. President George Gons of A & M is still out of the city, but was expected back today.



**SIGN OF BOYCOTT** — This sign appears near a bus stop just off the University Campus. (Democrat Photo).



**LIGHT BUS LOAD**—A bus passing through the Florida A & M campus this morning had only one passenger after a boycott by Negro university students was announced yesterday. Charles L. Carter, manager of the City Transit Co., said as far as he is concerned the bus operation was "normal today." (Democrat Photo).

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Racial Group Urged To Head Off Trouble

A Tallahassee Negro educator said today "there's a cake of ice between the Negro leaders and the white leaders" here and urged formation of an inter-racial committee to try to head off trouble between the races.

The appeal came from Dr. Gilbert Porter, executive secretary of the Florida Teachers Assn., statewide organization of Negro school teachers, and former principal of Lincoln High School.

There is no mutual ground for meeting of white and Negro leaders to discuss inter-racial problems, he said.

He cited the bus incident, and said "now is the appropriate time to sit down around the table to discuss these things man to man."

"A lot of these things could be stopped before they started if we had an inter-racial committee that would serve as a sounding board for things of this kind."

"This isn't a new idea," Dr. Porter said.

"They've had it in Greensboro, N. C., for 25 years and as a result racial relations seem to be as good there as any place in the South."

## TEXT Of City's Statement

The following is the complete text of the City Commission's statement on the bus boycott:

The City Commissioners have had under study the issues which appear to be involved in the bus boycott, and feel that a statement of their views would be helpful in bringing the matter to a conclusion. Specific written proposals from the Inter-Civic Council have not yet been received but there have been in the press and in informal discussions indications that there are three demands on the part of those participating in the boycott; namely (1) Exhibition of more courteous treatment of passengers by bus drivers, (2) employment of a Negro bus driver on routes whose passengers are predominantly Negroes, and (3) application of a "first come, first served" policy in the seating of passengers.

With regard to the item of

courteous treatment, the Commissioners are advised that the Company has and continues to have a strict policy of requiring drivers to practice courtesy to all passengers and that it intends to enforce such. It is, of course, impossible to police the drivers over every route every day and instances of discourtesy may occur without the knowledge of the bus officials.

The Commissioners expect the Company to carry out this policy in every reasonable manner.

The second item, employment of a Negro bus driver or drivers, is a matter of bus management and does not involve any of the terms of the franchise. The Company advises that it will receive applications for such employment, and in the event of a vacancy will give all such applications due consideration.

As to the "first come, first served" policy in the seating of passengers, the Company advises that it will receive applications for such employment, and in the event of a vacancy will give all such applications due consideration.

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 2)

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JUNE 3, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
Mofile 100-1361

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100-1361-107

# Statement Text

From Page 1

served" seating, there has been some uncertainty as to its meaning. The franchise, and consequently the existing law, requires the Company to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations providing for the segregation of the human races where more than one race is transported on the same bus. The Company currently has a rule providing for the seating of white passengers from the front to the rear, and colored passengers from the rear to the front until the bus is full, but members of different races may not occupy the same seat. This rule

complies with the requirement of the franchise. If the "first come, first served" principle is meant to alter the terms of the franchise requiring segregation or a change in the rule to permit members of different races to occupy the same seat, the Commissioners are opposed to this proposal. However, it is the understanding of the Commissioners that this rule, when properly applied, would not require any person, of either race, who is seated in a place in a place in accordance with the above arrangement, to give up his seat to a person of the other race and stand. In short, it is understood that if a person of one race takes the last vacant seat in the bus, a member of the other race may not take a seat beside such person, but the seated person is not required to surrender the seat. If the rule has been applied differently by the bus drivers, the Commissioners would expect the Company to take the necessary steps to bring about the application of the rule as the Commissioners now understand it. The Commissioners would be in accord with the "first come, first served" principle, if such is consistent with the above application of the existing rule.

The buses are franchised and operated for the comfort and convenience of the public and their discontinuance would impose a hardship on many persons. The Commissioners since rely hope that the controversy will be promptly terminated so that such service may continue and that the tension may be eased and there be restored the harmonious and cooperative spirit between white and Negro citizens which has made this a progressive, happy community.

# City Commission Moves To End Bus Boycott

## Interprets Seating Provision First Come, First Served On Last Seat

The Tallahassee City Commission last night sought to end the Negro bus boycott with a franchise interpretation that no member of either race must give up his seat on a crowded bus to another race.

It also said it expected the bus company to enforce strictly rules requiring drivers to treat all passengers courteously, and that the company is willing to take and consider applications from Negroes for vacancies in jobs as drivers on buses serving Negroes predominantly.

Rev. K. S. Dupont, vice president of the Negro Inter-Civic Council which voted the boycott and laid out its three-point demand at a mass meeting Tuesday night, said "I think the proposal is a step toward agreement."

### A MASS MEETING

The Council will hold another mass meeting tonight to discuss the boycott.

Charles L. Carter, bus company manager, said he concurred with the Commission's statement.

The City Commission ended its statement with a declaration that "the buses are franchised and operated for the comfort and convenience of the public and their discontinuance would impose a hardship on many persons."

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DATE 3/29/83 BY [signature]

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JUNE 3, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
Mofile 100-1361

100-1361-1117

"The Commissioners sincerely hope that the controversy will be promptly terminated so that such service may continue and that the tension may be eased and there be restored the harmonious and cooperative spirit between white and Negro citizens which has made this a progressive, happy community."

Much of the difficulty between the bus company and the Negroes has arisen over seating on the last vacant double or triple seat on buses running between A. and M. University campus and Frenchtown.

Only a few white passengers ever board the bus. It frequently is crowded with Negroes.

The City franchise long has required Negroes to seat from rear, white people from the front. The trouble has arisen when all the seats have become filled with Negroes except one double or triple seat, which is occupied by a white person.

The franchise prohibits a white person and a Negro occupying a seat together. The Commission said it would oppose permitting members of the two races to occupy the same seat, but that no member of either race should be required to relinquish a seat to a member of the other race.

The boycott started on the

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 5)

From Page 1

## City Moves

Florida A. and M. University campus after two co-eds were arrested a week ago when they insisted on sitting beside a white woman or having their money refunded. Charges against them were dropped.

The boycott continued through Saturday, with Negroes generally staying off the buses and getting rides from a car pool organized by the Inter-Civic Council.

Attorneys for the bus company, City and the Negro organization talked most of Friday in an attempt to reduce to writing an interpretation of what the Negroes meant by their demand for seating on a "first come, first served" basis.

The Negroes' attorney was to give a formal statement by noon Saturday, but bus and city lawyers said he had postponed it until Monday.

Governor Collins, back home yesterday after an absence of more than a week outside Florida, indicated the State has no plans for intervening in the boycott.

"It's a local problem and should be settled by local authorities," he said.

## Bus Boycott Terms Awaited

After an all-day conference yesterday, the attorney for the Negro Inter-Civic Council said he would submit his group's proposal on a six-day-old bus boycott in writing by noon today.

The conference yesterday was between attorneys representing the City, City Transit Co., and the Inter-Civic Council. It was called as a strictly "exploratory conference" to determine just exactly what is meant by a "first come, first served" seating demand by the Negro group.

When first announced to reporters, the Negro group said it meant a policy where no Negro would have to stand on a bus if seats were available, but disagreement on the meaning has arisen in the Negro ranks.

To date there has been no written statement submitted to the City or the bus company explaining the "first come, first served" demand.

The meeting yesterday was between Charles Ausley, attorney for the bus company; Ben C. Willis, representing the City, and Charles Lindsey, representing the Inter-Civic Council.

As the boycott moved into the sixth day, there had been no violence.

Regular classes ended yesterday at Florida A&M University, a terminal for most Negro bus traffic, and nearly all the boycott originated on the A&M campus.

The only remaining activities for the regular term are commencement exercises at the University Monday.

There was a report to police last night of a disturbance at the Seaboard Air Line Railroad Station, but it turned out to be a false alarm. Police investigated, and found it was only a large gathering of A&M students buying tickets and checking baggage for train trips to their homes.

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JUNE 2, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Mofile 100-1361

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DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3cl/pe

100-1-5-61-114  
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# Tallahassee Democrat

Friday, June 1, 1956

## Postponement Courts Trouble

It is time for some solid, responsible talk and action to put an end to this Tallahassee bus boycott.

All principle parties—the Negroes, the bus company and the general public through the City Commission—have points of view and problems which they believe to be paramount.

The trouble is that they haven't sat down and laid them out before each other. It is increasingly apparent that some of the parties can't agree among themselves about which is the proper course.

The original incident which sparked the boycott seems to have been handled satisfactorily and no longer is a basic point. We now should come to grips with the other fundamental issues.

It would help if the Negroes would send home their out-of-town advisors, and seek agreement among themselves about what they should do.

It would help, if in operation of their car pools, they would recognize that they hold a grave responsibility to see that their attempt to provide transportation doesn't become a matter of intimidation of members of their race who might prefer to ride the buses. They should recognize, too, that they must scrupulously

obey the traffic laws and that the police department while refraining from any harassment has a responsibility to see that they do.

The Negroes have grievances which, to them, are valid and grave. They should be heard. They believe to be true things which the other parties say are not true. The real truth should be pinned down.

They erred in waiting three days to put their desires in writing so lawyers could lay them explicitly beside the provisions of the bus franchise, City ordinances, State laws and court decisions to see what could be done legally.

The bus company has its problems of routing, revenue, personnel and public relations. They have a direct bearing on this situation. They should be laid out for the general public and the bus patrons to see.

The City officials are confronted with both legal and political considerations which cannot be lightly tossed off.

All these things, though, are matters which reasonable and frank discussion can bring to some sort of agreement.

To postpone an effort to reach such an agreement is only courting trouble at home and a bad name for Tallahassee abroad.

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JOHN M. TAPERS  
EDITOR  
JUNE 1, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
Mofile 109-1361

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DATE 9/19/83 BY [signature]

135-11-109

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 6/8/56

✓ FROM : SAC, MOBILE

SUBJECT: RACIAL CONDITIONS  
STATE OF ALABAMA

ORACON MOBILE

As of possible interest to the Bureau I am attaching hereto an item appearing in the Mobile Press, Mobile, Alabama, under date of 6/6/56, captioned "Negro Meeting is Called Here."

- 2 - Director (encl.) (100-135-61)
- 1 - Mobile (100-1342)
- 1 - b1s (3)

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ENCLOSURE

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JUN 11 1956

## NEGRO MEETING IS CALLED HERE

A group of prominent Mobile Negroes Wednesday issued a call for a "mass meeting" to be held at 8 p.m., Thursday, at the Tabernacle Baptist Church, St. Mader and Maple Sts., which they described as part of a "hold-the-line move to protect our fight for a first-class citizenship status."

Sponsors of the meeting said the move was decided upon as a result of a Montgomery Circuit Court order outlawing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Alabama.

The Mobile meeting of Negroes was called as Negro bus boycotts continued in two Southern cities in the wake of a ruling by a three-judge federal court panel that racial segregation on a city bus line was unconstitutional.

### MEET IN BIRMINGHAM

At Birmingham, about 500 Negroes Tuesday night formed a new organization called the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and dedicated to wiping out racial segregation. It was announced at Mobile that the Thursday night meeting

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 1)

## NEGRO MEETING

(Continued From Page One)  
in this city will take place under the direction of the Rev. William M. Smith, the Rev. J. Echols Lowery, the Rev. R. W. Collins, the Rev. W. T. Smith, the Rev. S. M. McCree, Alex L. Herman and Dr. R. W. Gilliard. They said in a statement that "what appears to be desperate steps to emasculate the struggle for freedom by Negroes may eventually effect the rights of other minorities in our country, if not stopped now."

At Montgomery, a Negro spokesman said Wednesday that a bus boycott will go on at least until a formal court order is issued carrying out the decision banning racial segregation on the buses. A bus boycott also is in progress at Tallahassee, Fla.

Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D-NY) said 12 persons, "white and Negro from North and South," would meet in New York Saturday to consider whether the "time is ripe" for a nationwide program of "passive resistance" similar to the two bus boycotts.

The Negro congressman revealed plans for the meeting while speaking at commencement exercises at Morehouse College in Atlanta Tuesday.

### TO CUT OUT DISTRICT

The city commission at Delray Beach, Fla., voted 4-1 Tuesday to take steps to have the entire Negro district excluded from the city limits of that resort town 47 miles north of Miami.

The commission asked legal counsel to draft a bill to the state Legislature to exclude the area and "to take all necessary and required steps incident to having the same enacted into law as soon as possible."

The Legislature, in extraordinary session now to consider only reapportionment, meets next in general session in April.

No violence has been reported in the city, but racial tension has mounted in the wake of attempts by Negroes to be allowed to use beaches and municipal swimming pools. The town has about 500 white persons and about 2000 Negroes.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 3/29/83

BY sp3cl/yl

THE MOBILE PRESS  
MOBILE, ALABAMA  
JUNE 6, 1956

FINAL EDITION

RE: NEGRO MEETING

file  
610-135-61  
5-20-56

610-135-61-110

"I sincerely believe this is the only way we can save Delray Beach," said Mayor Mike Yargates. "To keep tourists coming down here we are forced to do something. Tourism is our whole livelihood."

At Memphis, Tenn., the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People filed a federal court suit asking that bus segregation laws in Tennessee be declared unconstitutional.

At Montgomery the 2-1 decision that racial segregation on city buses violated the federal constitution was handed down six months to the day after the start of the boycott.

But the court took no immediate action to issue an injunction against enforcement of city and state segregation laws. The panel gave opposing lawyers two weeks to submit written suggestions on how the formal anti-segregation order should be made effective.

#### NEGRO SEES VICTORY

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Negro Baptist minister and one of the boycott leaders, called the ruling a "great victory for democracy and justice." But, he said, the boycott will continue at least until a formal court order is issued carrying out the decision.

District Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., one of the signers of the majority opinion, said that when an injunction is issued it will affect only buses in Montgomery even though state laws were held unconstitutional. To extend it to other Alabama cities would require a separate court order based on the ruling, he said.

Both the Montgomery City Commission and the Alabama Public Service Commission were named defendants in the suit filed by four Negro women.

Members of the public service commission said "we are deeply shocked" and that the decision will be appealed.

An appeal direct to the U. S. Supreme Court might result in the first clear-cut decision by that court on city bus segregation. At Tallahassee, Fla., where a bus boycott has been in progress since May 28, the Negro Inter Civic Council scheduled a mass meeting for Wednesday night to bring everyone up to date on the situation.

The boycott was touched off when two students of Florida A. & M. University for Negroes at Tallahassee were arrested for refusing to move to the rear of

a bus. A similar arrest of a Negro seamstress set off the Montgomery bus boycott. In both cities Negroes have been walking or using car pools to get to work.

Other developments on the segregation scene:

Washington — Atty. Gen. Brownell told the National Press Club that "the critical time has come for action" on the administration's civil rights program. "Members of the Negro race," he said, "need to be safeguarded from haters and opportunists, from those with sick minds."

At the capitol, Rep. Roosevelt (D-Calif) filed a petition to take the civil rights bill out of the hands of the House Rule Committee and bring it up for a vote. To be effective, such a petition would require the signatures of 218 members of the House. The bill has been approved by the House Judiciary Committee but has not got past the rules committee, which clears legislation for action. Many Southern members have opposed its progress. They say it would mean federal encroachment on the rights of states.

Washington — Rep. Huddleston Jr. (D-Ala), in a speech before the House, proposed a bill that would allow federal and state courts to ignore any Supreme Court decision that "conflicts with the legal principle of adhering to prior decisions which are based upon considerations other than legal."

Johnson City, Tenn. — Four Negro students registered for summer classes in the white East Tennessee State College Graduate School following a ruling by the Tennessee Board of Education that Negroes could attend graduate school in state colleges.

cc - Liaison Section  
Mr. [REDACTED]

100-135-61

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY [signature]

Date: June 29, 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  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

*Reason* *Mobile*

Reference is made to my memorandum dated  
June 6, 1956, relative to the boycott of the city buses  
in Tallahassee, Florida, by Negroes.

For your further information on June 4, 1956,

[REDACTED]

stated in connection with this boycott that  
the Negroes in Tallahassee have been told by the Negro  
ministers in the city that they should not ride the  
city buses. Accordingly, with very few exceptions, the  
Negroes are not riding the buses as the boycott entered  
its second week.

Students at Florida A and M University have  
returned home for the summer and this eliminates temporarily  
any further disturbance from that source.

[REDACTED]

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JUN 13 1956  
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- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

cc - Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins: (Sent by Form 0-6, same date)

7C  
7D  
JUN 19 1956  
[signature]

EX - 120

RECORDED-31  
100-135-21-171  
EVI BOOK  
EVS  
BY COURIER SVC.  
A.F. ONLY  
85 JUN 13  
COMM - FBI

JUN 14 1956  
[signature]

( U )

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

7C  
7D

[REDACTED] pointed out that the boycott has been orderly and well organized. [REDACTED] and other local Negro ministers have set up a car pool which cruises by all the bus stops, picks up the Negroes there and delivers them to their destinations. No incidents of violence have been reported and none have been expected.

Any additional pertinent information received in connection with this matter will be furnished to you promptly.

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

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

**BY COURIER SERVICE**

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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

DATE: 6/14/56

*JFK*  
FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-128214)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION,  
MONTGOMERY, ALA.

ReNYlet, 5/11/56, captioned as above.

The Bureau and the Mobile Office are requested to make the following correction in paragraph 3, line 3, of relet:

The date of November 1951, as set forth in relet, should read November, 1915.

NY copies have been corrected.

Inasmuch as the above was apparently a typographical transposition of numbers, no personnel are being charged with form errors.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/83 BY 306/3cl

*Correction in file  
made in 6-15-56  
Dad*

2-Bureau (100-135-61)(RM)  
2-Mobile (44-439)(RM)  
1-NY 100-7546  
1-NY 100-128214

100-1-11  
NOT RECORDED  
JUN 15 1956

LSW  
(6)  
7C  
JUN 19 1956

*Banning*  
INT  
*Mr. [unclear]*

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

9/21

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

TO : The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: June 14 1956

*WPH  
for  
date*

FROM : Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney General,  
Criminal Division

WO:MMH:sbh

144-2-152

SUBJECT: Racial Situation  
Montgomery, Alabama  
Civil Rights

*Recon - Mobile*

Reference is made to your memorandum of May 22, 1956, with the report of Special Agent [redacted] attached.

Please ascertain from the St. Margaret and Veterans Hospitals in Montgomery, Alabama, whether the treatment of Mr. T. P. Sellers at these hospitals was necessitated because of injury. If so, please obtain whatever facts and history which may be available with respect to such injury.

*7C*

*30*  
**EXP. PROC.**  
JUN 14 1956

*ICC: mobile by memo  
6-15-56  
urva*

*my*

**RECORDED - 80** *100-135-61-172*  
**INDEXED - 80** JUN 14 1956

*7C*  
[redacted]  
*mmh*

SAC, Mobile (44-439)

June 15, 1956

4  
Director, FBI

100-735-61-172

~~SECRET~~  
RACIAL SITUATION,  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA;  
CIVIL RIGHTS

7c

Rerep SA [redacted] in captioned matter.

There is enclosed herewith a copy of the Department's memorandum of June 13, 1956, in which it is requested that the records of two hospitals concerning the treatment of Mr. T. P. Sellers be obtained.

Investigation requested by the Department must be immediately assigned for continuous and expeditious attention. No investigation other than the investigation requested should be conducted.

A report in this matter is to reach the Bureau not later than June 25, 1956.

*Real*  
Enclosure

7c  
[redacted] ecb  
(4) *et*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/83 BY 493 cl/gcl

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

283

50 JUN 22 1956

MAILED 16  
JUN 15 1956

*72P/John*  
*6/15/56*

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 6/12/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361)

*Opinion*

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY *[signature]*

Enclosed herewith are two copies of an editorial which appeared in the 6/10/56 edition of "Tallahassee Democrat," daily newspaper, Tallahassee, Florida. Instant editorial was written by the Executive Editor of the above newspaper, MALCOLM B. JOHNSON.

Also enclosed are two copies of an article from the 6/7/56 issue of Tallahassee Democrat headed "Bus Settlement Proposal Heard But Not Adopted."

- ② - Bureau (Encl. 4)
- 1 - Mobile (100-1361)

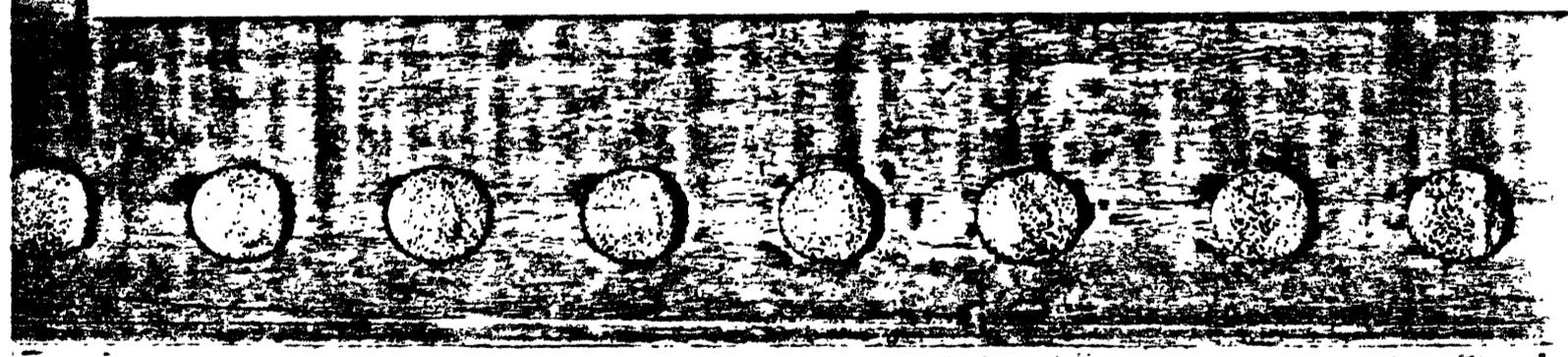
ENCLOSURE

*7C*  
*(3)*  
*6-18-56*  
*6-18-56*  
*7C*

RECORDED - 96  
INDEXED - 96

100-135-61-173 34

*[Redacted]*  
*7C*  
 INT *[initials]*



## Bus Settlement Proposal Heard But Not Adopted

A report from 15 Negroes recommending adoption of the City Commission proposal to end the bus boycott was read at a mass meeting of the Negro Inter-Civic Council last night, but no action was taken.

There was no motion made for its adoption.

The report from the group, some of whom met privately with the City Commission last Saturday afternoon, made it clear they still supported objectives of the Inter-Civic Council, but differ on approach.

The only comment in connection with the report was by the Rev. D. H. Brooks, a member of the executive committee of the Inter-Civic Council, who read the report for the group of 15 Negroes.

He said there had been reports that the Inter-Civic Council was not willing to negotiate, but "we want to make it crystal clear our minds are open to negotiate, but not on a basis that will sell our people out."

The report was only a brief part of a three-hour meeting last night of the Inter-Civic Council attended by about 500 Negroes.

During the meeting, the Rev. C. K. Steele said a federal court ruling in the Montgomery bus boycott as a "long, long step toward victory in the war in which we are engaged with a great giant." He identified the "great giant" as racial prejudice.

The federal court ruling was (Continued on Page 6, Col 1)

that racial segregation on city buses in Montgomery violates the U.S. Constitution.

Rev. Brooks in presenting the 15-member group's report said there had been implications that they were considered "traitors and double crossers." He added, "The group has assured us they are with us, but wanted to present this report for consideration."

The report, after making assurances of sympathy with the overall objectives of the boycott, said: "There is a best way to do everything."

The key paragraph in the statement said:

"As an immediate solution, we ask you to consider the proposal as outlined in Sunday's paper—The Democrat—and coming from the Board of City Commissioners. With the exception of one point, this seems consistent with the requests previously made and agreed upon by our people."

Names on the report were Cornelius Speed, John Swilley, Albert Crump, George Conoly, Gilbert Porter, Maxwell Thomas, Lonnie Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. John Nims, Alonzo Colquitt, B. F. Holmes, Z. R. Hercey, Joseph A. Hercey, Joseph Hill and Harold Jenkins.

### MORE DONATIONS

Under the City Commission interpretation, a white person and Negro could not occupy the same seat, but no member of either race would be required to relinquish a seat to a member of the other race.

The Inter-Civic Council has asked for a policy by which passengers could sit "wherever they choose."

During the meeting, an announcement of a \$1,000 donation from an unidentified "friend" was made, boosting to \$2,383.80 the total on hand to finance a car pool and letters were read from various parts of the United States commending the group's action.

In a report by Dan Speed, transportation chairman, the cancellation of bus service to the Florida A&M and Frenchtown districts was hailed as a victory for the Negro group.

Speed said "we are running those profitable runs now."

## Leader Fined

The Rev. C. K. Steele, leader of the Tallahassee NAACP and a key man in the Negro boycott of city buses, was found guilty in city court today of running a stop street and speeding.

City Judge John A. Rudd sentenced Steele to serve 20 days in jail or pay a fine of \$35. Steele said he may appeal his case to Circuit Court.

Court officials said Steele has until Monday to post his \$35 fine or inform the court that he intends to appeal his case to the higher court.

Steele, who said he had never been arrested before, testified he was not exceeding the speed limit and that he did not purposely disregard a stop street when he was arrested last week shortly after the bus boycott began. He was transporting boycotting passengers as a car pool participant.

Arresting officers Burt Peacock said he stopped the Steele car after it failed to stop completely at a "blind corner" at Gadsden Street and Park Avenue.

He said he was riding his motorcycle about 30 or 40 feet behind Steele's car when he observed the violations.

Peacock testified he did not know who Steele was when he arrested him and did not learn that he was one of the boycott leaders until he reached police headquarters.

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JUNE 7, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
MOFILE 100-1361

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

100-1361-61-173

## Notes

### Negroes And Whites Fooling Each Other **Malcolm B. Johnson**

Two great misconceptions plague efforts to bring about racial harmony in the South.

Too many southern white people hold the delusion that there is a considerable number of Negroes who really don't want to change the pattern of segregation.



Too many Negroes feel a majority, or close to a majority, of white southerners really want them to make progress toward full integration.

It probably just isn't true that there is more than a slight percentage of Negroes who don't yearn, deep down, for removal of all segregation barriers—whether they ever would take advantage of the removal or not.

Nor are there many southern white people (even among the newcomers) who sincerely are ready to accept Negroes on anywhere near even social terms.

#### Aunt Sally's Story

And those white people who are anxious to help the Negroes improve their stations in life even to the point of fully equal opportunity—most likely will draw a segregation line somewhere through fear of trouble, inborn prejudice or through simple social snobbery of the sort that knows no race.

But the white folks hold to their belief that old Aunt Sally really doesn't want to drop segregation. Aunt Sally's tells them so. But Aunt Sally may not have been telling them what she felt. She just learned long ago how to get along with white folks: Tell them what they want to hear.

It's that way with the Negroes, too—the more socially advanced ones. They've been talking to white people in a new way, a way Aunt Sally didn't know how to talk. They've been sounding around on the question of integration, and from too many white friends they've received encouragement that wasn't heartfelt. They've been led to believe that gradually this old system is going to end without serious trouble.

#### They Can't Believe

Just as the Negro has been telling the white man what he thinks the white man wants to hear, the white man has been sparing the Negro what he thinks he doesn't want to hear.

Neither one has been honest with the other.

There has come a complete breakdown of dependable communication between the two races—if there ever was dependable communication between them.

The result: a growing spirit of confident aggressiveness on the part of the Negro; a sudden stiffening and decision to apply the brakes on the part of the white man; bewilderment, disappointment and unwillingness to recognize sincerity on the part of both.

The white man gets to thinking any Negro who speaks out for an end to segregation is a Communist, a dupe of Communists or at least a racial opportunist.

And the Negro begins to feel that any white man who honestly supports segregation is a bigot, a race-baiter who would do him bodily harm.

The Negro can't conceive of a white man favoring segregation, for fear of the consequences of desegregation, without particularly believing in segregation.

The white man can't believe a Negro could oppose segregation without wanting complete integration.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY Sp3 Ck/jcl

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
MALCOLM B. JOHNSON  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR  
JUNE 10, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
Mofile 100-1361

### It Might Help

So in doubt and cynicism and misunderstanding, we have the seeds of strife and growing mistrust and threat of violence. It's time for frank talk, for the races to quit fooling each other.

It's time for them to sit down and seek some understanding of exactly how each other feels about the basic elements of their problem.

Until they find that understanding, until they begin talking the same language with bold honesty, they're going to have an awful lot of trouble agreeing on what constitutes discourtesy, or who sits where on a bus.

They're going to have difficulty keeping themselves from being pulled to the two extremes: the relatively few white men who really are governed by blind prejudice, the relatively few Negroes who want total integration and all its implications.

To get that sort of frank talk, from people of all ranges of thought in both races, is the purpose of a new Inter-Racial Council that is being organized in Tallahassee.

It won't endorse anything. It won't condemn anything. It may never reach any decisions as a body. But it should bring some understandings of sincere beliefs and motives; and if it does, it will be a good thing.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361)  
SUBJECT: RACIAL CONDITIONS  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

DATE: 6/19/56

Reference is made to prior correspondence to the Bureau re this matter.

Transmitted herewith are two copies each of the following newspaper items pertaining to this situation at Tallahassee, Florida:

1. Full page appearing in Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 6/15/56, entitled "IMPORTANT PUBLIC STATEMENTS."
2. Item appearing in Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, 6/15/56, entitled "BUS FIRM MAY SUSPEND JULY 1; CITY MAKES PLEA."
3. Item appearing in Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, 6/16/56, entitled "BOYCOTT REMAINS UNSETTLED."
4. Item appearing in Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, 6/17/56, entitled "BUS SERVICE ALTERNATIVES."

ENCLOSURE  
13

2 - Bureau (Encl. 8)  
1 - Mobile (100-1361)

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/83 BY [signature]

COPIES  
35

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
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JUN 22 1956  
7C

100 135-61-174

RECORDED 13  
INDEXED - 13  
EX-128

JUN 21 1956  
7C  
INT. SEC.

52 JUN 29 1956

# 4 — Tallahassee Democrat

Sunday, June 17, 1956

## Bus Service Alternatives

Citizens of Tallahassee now have clear cut alternatives facing them if they want bus service continued in the community.

The alternatives—patronize the bus line or see it die.

A city the size and stature of Tallahassee would be handicapped in its industrial expansion program and in many other ways without bus service but that possibility is a definite threat.

The bus company has notified the City of its intention to suspend operations on July 1 unless "existing circumstances" are altered.

A change in the "existing circumstances" can come about in only one of two ways—lifting of the bus boycott by local Negroes or increased patronage by white residents.

It is difficult to analyze the boycott because reports of reaction of the Negroes are conflicting. One thing, however, is certain—a continuation of the boycott will hurt the Negroes more than any other group.

A settlement is difficult to even approach because of the confused situation among their professed leaders. One of their officials tells us that 90 per cent of the Negro citizens would resume bus use if they could be assured courtesy and decent treatment—an assurance they have

already been given by the bus company and by the City of Tallahassee.

Even discounting this 90 per cent estimate heavily, we cannot help but wonder what real percentage is represented by other Negro leaders who take an "integration or else" stand.

Whatever the percentage, we must face the fact that Negroes are not riding the buses.

Assuming that they will continue to boycott, the decision to save the bus system now lies with the white people. They must support the bus company by increased use of the facility.

And when you think about it, maybe that will be good in more ways than one. Imagine, no parking worries! The Chamber of Commerce was advocating "shop by bus" as a means of easing Tallahassee's parking problems long before the current controversy arose. Even present plans for downtown parking lots will not supply the demand for a long time to come.

We've heard of scores of offers to help the bus company survive. Many people—even low salaried office workers—are willing to help with outright cash donations if necessary.

That type of support may be organized but can only be a stop gap.

The real solution is to have more people riding the bus—now and from now on.

TALLAHASSEE  
DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
JOHN M. TAPERS,  
EDITOR  
JUNE 17, 1956

Re: RACIAL  
CONDITIONS  
TALLAHASSEE,  
FLA.  
No file 100-1361

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

DATE 3/31/55

BY [Signature]

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-174

## BOYCOTT REMAINS UNSETTLED

The status of the Tallahassee bus boycott remained up in the air today with no sign of a settlement and conflicting statements coming from leaders of the Negro Inter-Civic Council.

Rev. K. S. DuPont, vice president of the Council, told The Democrat today that integration was not the main desire of the Negroes. He claimed discourtesy on the part of bus drivers was, in his opinion, the main issue.

But Dr. M. C. Williams, secretary of the Council, said integration was the main issue.

Dr. Williams said the Council was preparing a statement which would refute some of the things published in letter by the City Commission and bus company yesterday. He declined to elaborate on the statement until it was completed.

Meanwhile the bus company says it is going ahead with plans to discontinue bus service on July 1 unless something happens between now and then.

A movement is still underway by a local group to organize a campaign aimed at promoting more people to ride the buses and possibly solicit funds but leaders of the move say they aren't ready to make an announcement yet.

FLA

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JUNE 16, 1956

Re: RACIAL CONDITIONS  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Mofile 100-1361

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/88 BY [signature]

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-171

# Bus Firm May Suspend July 1; City Makes Plea

The president of the Cities Transit Bus Company said today his company will probably suspend operation of all buses in Tallahassee on July 1 and the City Commission made a public appeal to Tallahasseeans to support the bus company.

J. S. D. Coleman, bus company president, said in a public statement "... the boycott has been successful. Our revenue has decreased by approximately 60 per cent. This is a severe blow to any business."

#### 'APPEAL TO ALL'

The City Commission statement said: "We appeal to all citizens to actively support the service afforded by the bus company with the hope that substantial increased patronage may result in the ability of Cities Transit, Inc. to continue their service to the community."

The bus boycott by Negroes in Tallahassee began on May 28 and is now better than 90 per cent effective. Yesterday the Negro Inter Civic Council issued a statement saying the group planned to continue the boycott. A compromise offer by the City—which was agreed to by the bus company—was rejected by the Negroes.

Dan Speed, an official of the Inter Civic Council who is in charge of the car pool operation, declined to comment on the new developments. He said "I don't know anything about it except what you're telling me. They haven't contacted us." Only last Tuesday the City

agreed to an increase in rates for the bus company and reduced its municipal tax by about \$4,000.

Even before the City Commission made its appeal today, individuals had started a drive to raise funds to subsidize the bus operations during the

### Bus Aid Asked

A Tallahassee group today was making plans to form a committee to help promote bus travel and to solicit direct funds if necessary in an effort to keep the Cities Transit Bus Company from discontinuing its service.

A spokesman for the group, who asked to remain anonymous for the time being, said "We've got several plans under consideration. We think we can solve the problem."

boycott. Containers for donations have been placed in some places of business and there have been some efforts on the part of local businessmen to raise larger amounts.

(Complete statements of the bus company and City appear in a full-page advertisement on page 3.)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY [signature]

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JUNE 15, 1956

Re: RACIAL CONDITIONS  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
Mofile 100-1361

ENCLOSURE

3

100-1361-114

# IMPORTANT PUBLIC STATEMENT

City Commission  
City of Tallahassee  
Tallahassee, Florida

Tallahassee, Florida  
June 14, 1956

Gentlemen:

Since 1939 we have been engaged in operating a transit system in the City of Tallahassee pursuant to the terms of a franchise granted by the City. We began our operations here modestly, but with confidence in the potential of this community. Over the years we have grown with the City. To keep abreast with its progress, we have improved our facilities and expanded our service so as to provide a modern and first-class transportation system. In building up the Tallahassee system there were many lean years, but when profits were made they were reinvested in the system. The stockholders have never received a dividend, and the principal stockholder and the President of the corporation has loaned his salary back to the company in all but two years during the operation. We have been content to plow all of the operating profits into building a better transportation system for Tallahassee.

Like any other business, we have had our share of operating problems. We do feel, however, that, on the whole, we have been able to render to this City good and courteous service. We think our operation will compare favorably to that of any city of comparable size anywhere. On the 26th day of May, 1956, a segment of the population of Tallahassee, for reasons which are beyond our control, decided to organize an economic boycott against the bus company. It is because of the results of this boycott that we are now addressing you.

In discussing the situation, we confine ourselves herein solely to the economic phases.

To the extent that it was directed toward curtailment of our operating income, the boycott has been successful. Our revenue has decreased by approximately 60 per cent. This is a severe blow to any business.

We have been willing to continue operating at a loss for a reasonable period of time but our resources are such that we cannot continue indefinitely. With no solution in sight, and being an independent company without unlimited resources, we cannot continue to impair our financial resources as they now exist. Only because of our sense of obli-

---

company. It is because of the results of this boycott that we are now addressing you. In discussing the situation, we confine ourselves herein solely to the economic phases. To the extent that it was directed toward curtailment of our operating income, the boycott has been successful. Our revenue has decreased by approximately 60 per cent. This is a severe blow to any business.

We have been willing to continue operating at a loss for a reasonable period of time but our resources are such that we cannot continue indefinitely. With no solution in sight, and being an independent company without unlimited resources, we cannot continue to impair our financial position under circumstances as they now exist. Only because of our sense of obligation to the community and to our employees have we continued to operate as long as we have. We realize that any growing community needs a transportation system and that the lack thereof is reflected in a reduction of real estate values in certain areas, causes serious inconvenience to working people and constitutes a serious barrier against further expansion and, particularly, industrial expansion. At the same time, the situation is not of our making or choosing and our best efforts to solve it have been unavailing.

To those who are responsible for the boycott, we would like to say that you have seriously impaired our operating earnings and you have left us with no alternative except to liquidate our holdings quickly so as to keep our losses as low as possible. If this was your objective, you have succeeded and you may take full credit. To you, however, must also go the blame for the long-range results on this community. The real loser, as we see it, will be the community and all of its citizens, including those whose ambitions the boycott was designed to further.

We are writing to explain the situation in order that the people of Tallahassee and everyone concerned might have ample notice of our problem and intentions.

Under existing circumstances, it is our intention to suspend operation of buses in this community as of July 1, 1956 for an indefinite period.

To the City Commission, the public officials of this community and to the people of the City of Tallahassee, we wish to express our deep appreciation for the cooperation and consideration we have received since we began operations in Tallahassee to the present date. We wish this to be recorded regardless of the outcome of the present dilemma.

Sincerely,      **CITIES TRANSIT, INC.**  
By /s/ J. S. D. Coleman  
President

---

### **TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF TALLAHASSEE:**

*The City Commission has given careful and deliberate consideration to the letter from Cities Transit, Inc., which precedes this statement and is not only fully cognizant of the problem confronting the bus company but is unanimously*

*in accord with the efforts of the company in dealing with the problem with which it is confronted.*

*The Commission has exerted every effort within its power and within reason to reach a solution of the problem with which the bus company and this community has been confronted during the past weeks, but each attempt has been met by insistent demands upon the part of the committee which purported to represent a segment of the population of Tallahassee which is participating in the boycott against the company, for full integration within the city buses. The City Commission has consistently and unanimously rejected such demands.*

*In an effort to procure a continuation of the bus transportation system operating in the City of Tallahassee and which means so much to a substantial portion of the population, the City Commission at its meeting held on June 12 granted the bus company an increase in fares and expressed a willingness to reduce the franchise tax paid by the bus company to the city from 3% to 1/2 of 1% of such receipts until normal patronage was resumed. However, the action granting such relief is insufficient to insure continued operation of a transportation facility which lost \$3,000 in last year's operations when it enjoyed patronage from all groups of our citizens.*

*Each member of the Commission realizes the importance of urban bus transportation service to the people of our city and the hardships that will result from the discontinuance of such service. We appeal to all citizens to actively support the service afforded by the bus company with the hope that substantial increased patronage may result in the ability of Cities Transit, Inc., to continue their service to the community.*

*Whether or not the operation of the buses in our community is suspended, the City Commission expresses its sincere appreciation for the whole-hearted cooperation that your city government has received from the bus company during the operations of Cities Transit, Inc., under its franchise.*

*June 15, 1956*

*The City Commission of the  
City of Tallahassee.*

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361)  
SUBJECT: RACIAL CONDITIONS  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

DATE: 6/18/56

Re previous correspondence to the Bureau regarding this matter.

As of possible interest to the Bureau, enclosed here-with are two copies each of the following newspaper items:

1. Item appearing in Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 6/13/56 entitled "BUS FIRM GIVEN FARE INCREASE AND LOWER TAX."
2. Item appearing in The Capital Post, Tallahassee, Florida, 6/15/56 entitled "WITH GOOD WILL."
3. Item appearing in The Capital Post, Tallahassee, Florida, 6/15/56 entitled "BUS BOYCOTT NEGOTIATIONS HIT STALEMATE; GROUPS DISAGREE."

2 - Bureau (Encl. 6)  
1 - Mobile (100-1361)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5/29/83 BY [signature]

EXP. PROC.

7C

ENCLOSURE

100-1361-61  
6-21-56

7C

100-1361-61

100-135-61-175

JUN 20 1956

7C

[Redacted signature]

34

## Bus Firm Given Fare Increase And Lower Tax

The City Commission yesterday granted a five-cent fare increase to the city bus line and started action to lower the amount of franchise tax paid from the company's profits.

Taking action on two petitions presented by Cities Transit Inc., the Commission granted a maximum fare increase from 10 cents to 15 cents and ordered City Attorney Jim Messer to draw up an amendment to the franchise which would temporarily cut the company's tax from three per cent to one-half of one per cent.

Under the new increase, the fare charged children would remain the same—10 cents.

Charles L. Carter, vice president of the bus company, said the added revenue was asked as "a last resort (for the bus company) to stay in business in Tallahassee."

Carter said the company has been losing money for the past 12 months and that the fare hike was to be asked even before Negroes began a boycott of the bus line May 28. Two bus routes were discontinued after the boycott began.

City Clerk George White said the bus company's 3 per cent franchise tax presently is providing about \$5,000 a year to the City.

Under the temporary set up being worked out by Messer, the tax would be lowered until the present "strained period" is ended.

Carter also said he intends to start an advertising campaign to promote more bus riders. He said he is agreeable to having the tax rate hiked to the original 3 per cent when his business returns to normal.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5/24/82 BY SP3/clb/jcl

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JUNE 13, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Mofile 100-1361

100-1361-111  
ENCLOSURE

## With Good Will

The meeting of the Ku Klux Klan, held in Jacksonville earlier in the week, was a little different from some of its meetings of the past.

For one, the Klan invited newspaper reporters and photographers to visit the meeting, report on it, and take pictures. They've changed the name of the "cyclops" to "president." And they said, piously, that they are "abiding by the law."

But the Ku Klux Klan, under any name and in any form, is still the Ku Klux Klan, an organization built on racial and religious hatreds which inevitably explode into lawlessness and violence.

Here's what a Florida federal grand jury said about the Klan:

"... founded on the worst instincts of mankind. At its best it is intolerant and bigoted. At its worst it is sadistic and brutal. . . . In its own perverted way it is as destructive of basic American liberties as Communism itself, and its very existence is calculated to breed more Communism."

The revival of the Klan, and of other similar organizations with other names but potentially just as dangerous to democratic principles, is based on the racial feeling which has been generated by the segregation issue.

Put Florida does not need the Klan. Florida can handle its segregation problems with legal and lawful means, with calm and quiet, with wisdom and patience, with open discussion and an exchange of ideas. There is no place

under the Florida sun for the masked face and the sheeted threat.

Since the start of the bus boycott here in Tallahassee, racial tensions, almost non-existent here prior to that time, have increased. To deny that the strain exists is to close your eyes to the problem, for there is a boycott and the tension can be felt.

The big problem in Tallahassee is not the boycott itself. The real problem facing our citizens here is the re-building of racial understanding, the re-building of racial harmony, the re-building of racial good will.

Those of our white citizens who make their contributions to the future welfare of our community by organizing Klans or Councils or other organizations of similar violent potential are doing themselves and their neighbors a disservice. Those of our Negro citizens who contribute to the welfare of our community by refusing to realistically recognize the temper and feelings of the community and who would rush blindly toward the attainment of full and immediate desegregation on all fronts, are also doing a disservice.

The days and months and years ahead call for the best thinking of the best minds, for patience and understanding and calmness on the part of each of us. It is toward this end, that we may solve our problems in friendship and understanding and good will, that the people of Tallahassee and Leon County must work.

TAL POST  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
EDITOR  
5, 1956

RACIAL CONDITION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
file 100-1361

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/27/83 BY [signature]

ENCLOSURE

## Bus Boycott Negotiations Hit Stalemate; Groups Disagree

Negotiations between Tallahassee city officials and the Inter-Civic Council on the 18-day old bus boycott have been broken off.

City officials and Negro representatives met officially last Friday for three hours to discuss the boycott and various proposals toward ending it, but reached no agreement.

A scheduled meeting for Wednesday of this week was called off when the Inter-Civic Council said it had no new proposals to make.

### LAW PROHIBITS

The commissioners proposed a seating arrangement on a first-come, first-served basis but maintained that Florida law prohibits members of both races from sitting together.

The Negro group held out for integration on the buses and the deadlock ensued.

Approximately 200 Negroes at a mass meeting Wednesday night at the Bethel AMA church reaffirmed their determination to continue the boycott. However, this was below the number who have been attending previous meetings of the group.

### FAVOR SETTLEMENT

In addition, there have been reports from some Negro leaders of an increase in the number of Negroes who favor settlement of the boycott on the basis of the

city's compromise proposal while awaiting final U. S. Supreme Court action in the Montgomery bus boycott case.

If the Supreme Court holds segregation on bus lines to be illegal it will affect transportation systems in all states.

Meanwhile, city commissioners approved an increase in bus fares from 10 to 15 cents and took action toward lowering of the city franchise tax, in order to help the bus company make up part of the financial loss since the boycott got underway. Children's fares will remain at 10 cents.

The Inter-Civic Council's transportation committee reports 73 cars and 2 station wagons now operating in its car pool, giving Negroes rides to and from work.

### COURTEOUS TREATMENT

The City Commission also (Continued on Page 8)

## Bus Boycott

(Continued From Page 1)

agreed at last week's meeting that all bus passengers are entitled to courteous and fair treatment, one of the requests of the Negro group. However, the city said the hiring of Negro drivers and other personnel was a problem between the Council and the bus company and that the city had no right to interfere.

The stalemate between the Civic Council and the city apparently dashed any hopes for early settlement of the dispute. However, the boycott has continued to be quiet and without violence.

Local officials, however, have expressed fears that continuance of the boycott may force the bus company out of business, thus depriving both Negro and white passengers of transportation.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/83 BY 7306/jol

THE CAPITAL POST  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JUNE 15, 1956

Re: RACIAL CONDITION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Mofile 100-1361

100-1-5-61  
ENCLOSURE

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

11 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):  
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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
100-135-61-176

*HM*

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

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361)  
SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

DATE: 6/25/56

Re previous correspondence to the Bureau concerning this matter.

As of possible additional interest to the Bureau, transmitted herewith are two copies each of the following newspaper items:

1. Item appearing in Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Fla., 6/18/56, entitled "BUS OBTAINED FOR USE HERE IN BOYCOTT."
2. Item appearing in Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Fla., 6/20/56, entitled "NEGRO COUNCIL EXPLAINS STAND IN BUS BOYCOTT."
3. Full page appearing in Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Fla., 6/20/56, entitled "AN APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE OF TALLAHASSEE FOR MORAL JUSTICE."

6 ENCL. LOURE

2 - Bureau (Encl. 6)  
2 - Mobile (100-1361)  
10  
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY [signature]

RECORDED - 49

INDEXED - 49

100-135-61-177

24 JUN 27 1956

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*oe of [unclear] to [unclear] 6/25/56*  
**[Redacted]**  
**[Redacted]**

**[Redacted]**  
**[Redacted]**  
7c

EX-117

1955

**Ruling Awaited**

**Bus Obtained  
For Use Here  
In Boycott**

Negro leaders of the Tallahassee bus boycott have obtained a bus to be used in transporting Negroes to and from work but use of the bus was discontinued today pending a legal ruling as to whether or not they can operate the bus under existing laws.

Dan Speed, who is heading the Negro car pool committee, today confirmed that the bus had been obtained from St. Petersburg. He said it was used for awhile Friday afternoon and Saturday but was stopped after "two of our people were arrested."

Speed said Leroy Thomas and Reverend McTier were arrested on the bus. Police records show Thomas was arrested for "obstructing traffic" but Capt. Wayne Todd said the police had no record on McTier.

Thomas failed to appear in City Court this morning and a warrant was issued for his arrest. He had been released without bond Saturday.

The bus was registered in the name of St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church at Chaires when a license was obtained for it last week but Speed confirmed that it was brought here to use in the car pool. He said it is planned to give free rides on the bus. The car pool is being financed with contributions from Negroes, Speed said.

City Attorney James Messer said today he is studying the law to see whether or not such an operation is legal.

The Negroes have been operating a car pool to carry people back and forth to work since the bus boycott started late last month. Negotiations toward settlement of the boycott have bogged down and no solution is in sight. Negro leaders, City officials and bus company officials all report that there is no sign of a settlement.

A local group is working on plans to promote wider use of the buses by white patrons and to possibly raise funds for the bus company if necessary to keep it in operation but no definite plan has yet been put forth.

The bus company has announced it will suspend operations on July 1 unless more revenue is in sight.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY 47526/jol

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JUNE 18, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Mofile 100-1361

*SEE FACT IN FILE  
6/28/56*

ENCLOSURE

# Negro Council Explains Stand In Bus Boycott

The Tallahassee Inter Civic Council in a full-page advertisement in today's Democrat issued a statement explaining its position in the bus boycott.

The statement was approved by the executive committee of the Council "on unanimous vote" of the Council.

The Negroes denied that the boycott was an organized effort to destroy the bus company and said the situation never would have happened "if all bus passengers were treated as Americans."

The Negroes continued their demand for equal seating rights.

The statement said the Council officials had asked the City Commission to put into effect an integrated seating plan in "30, 60 or 90 days" and conduct an education campaign to show the people "the merits, the economic wisdom and the moral justification for a bus seating

plan which would grant all bus passengers the right to sit any place they choose on the bus, without being humiliated."

The City turned the plan down. (The City had previously made a proposal which would have had the effect of making no bus passenger stand so long as seats were available but would have barred seating of whites and Negroes in the same seat.)

In its statement, the Negroes offered no hope for a settlement of the bus strike unless its demands for integrated seating were met.

The full page ad is on page 5.

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JUNE 20, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Mofile 100-1361

*Cont. Tallahassee  
4/28/56*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/80 BY [signature]

100-1361-177

ENCLOSURE

The following original pages are of poor quality. UPA has made every technical effort to provide the best possible reproduction.

# An Appeal to The People of Tallahassee For Moral Justice

Ladies and Gentlemen:

## NEGRO CITIZENS LOYAL AMERICANS.

The Negro citizens of Tallahassee are hard working loyal Americans, vitally interested in this great city. They have deep roots in Tallahassee. They have homes in Tallahassee. They have businesses in Tallahassee. They have established themselves in the civic, religious, and economic life of the community. They have established important contacts with representatives of the entire community. The Negro citizens of Tallahassee have not, and have no intentions of making any plans to help destroy the business of the bus company. Neither do we believe that any White citizens have made any plan to help destroy the business of the bus company.

We believe that the public bus transportation service is an integral part of the entire community. It is a valuable asset. It should be encouraged to remain, and give to all of its passengers a fast, efficient and expanding service. We shall do our share. We further believe along with other justice loving people of Tallahassee, that all bus passengers regardless of race, should be treated as American citizens, and should receive equality of treatment, courtesy, and full use of all the facilities and conveniences provided for all riders on any bus or buses.

## BUS PASSENGERS EXERCISING OWN FREE CHOICE.

At the present time it is true that many individual Negro men and women, who formerly rode the buses are not doing so now. You should also know the true reasons, then you can judge if they have reasons for complaint. Because of past discourtesies, and the general lack of employment opportunities given so abundantly to others, these individual Negro bus passengers who give the bus company approximately 60 per cent of its income, felt that this was too high a price to pay for continued humiliation. For the fiscal year ending September 30, 1955, the bus company collected \$176,000.00 from bus passengers. Of this amount Negro bus passengers paid over ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00). Thinking for themselves as individuals, and exercising their own free choice as American citizens, which they have a right to do, these men and women felt that such lack of consideration on the part of the bus company indicated that their patronage was no longer appreciated, nor wanted. Immediately others were affected by the contagion of this spontaneous feeling.

## DEFINITION OF A BOYCOTT

Black's Law Dictionary, 4th edition, defines a BOYCOTT as an organized and planned effort to destroy the business of another.

There has not been and is not now any planned effort on the part of Tallahassee's loyal, hard-

ally sound bus seating plan would go into operation. During that period a demonstration should be conducted to show the people of Tallahassee the merits, the economic wisdom and justification for a bus seating plan, which would grant all bus passengers the right to sit and choose on the bus, without being humiliated.

It was further proposed that since all groups in the city would benefit from this plan, they should help prepare the material for the educational campaign, and lend some financial support. It was pointed out that the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, The Bus Company, Tallahassee, and various civic and religious groups could help underwrite the cost of this campaign. The Inter Civic Council was and is ready to make its contribution. The Commission turned this plan down.

The Commission was then asked whether, even with modifications, it believed it had the possibilities of being workable. The commission decided not to answer this question.

Everyone who has worked on projects for the improvement of a situation, but though all of the persons on the committee have different ideas, they will give a good cooperation, once they have agreed that it has a good possibility of working. Before the meeting adjourned, a second conference was scheduled for Wednesday, June 13th at 2:30 p.m.

## PUBLIC STATEMENT OF COMMISSION

In its public statement of Friday, June 15, 1956, The Commission said that it had made every effort within its power and reason to reach a solution. The public has the right to know. Sometimes the answer to a problem is so simple, that we make it hard by not giving a direct answer. This is the situation here. The issue is simply one of granting all bus passengers who ride the public bus, regardless of race, the right to sit wherever they choose, a morally just solution.

## BUS COMPANY'S REFUSAL WILL EMBARRASS WHITE BUS PASSENGERS

The bus company also turned down the solution to have a bus seating plan for all passengers. In effect this means that White bus passengers, as well as Negro bus passengers, continue to be humiliated and embarrassed so long as this present economic situation continues. This is an embarrassing, arbitrary, inequitable, inconvenient, and morally unjustifiable public bus seating plan.

## BUS COMPANY CREATES OWN DILEMMA

The average person, be he White or Colored, is aware that the bus company is a business which serve their customers well generally survive and prosper. The bus company should recheck its operational plan and see if it has met this goal.

CONFERENCE WITH INTER-CIVIC COUNCIL

## DEFINITION OF A BOYCOTT

Black's Law Dictionary, 4th edition, defines a BOYCOTT as an organized and planned effort to destroy the business of another.

There has not been and is not now any planned effort on the part of Tallahassee's loyal, hard-working and justice loving citizens to destroy the business of the bus company.

Each person as an individual made his own decision to refrain from riding the buses. This was a spontaneous reaction.

There is no law that makes a man shop or trade with another man who mistreats or humiliates him.

We would like to have everyone understand clearly that the Negro citizens of Tallahassee as individuals made their choice to refrain from riding the buses.

It has always been our understanding that there must be some very important reasons why individuals refrain from shopping or trading with a given business. It might be well for the bus company to look into this situation.

The people of Tallahassee can see clearly that there is no bus boycott. This is a refusal on the part of individual Negro and some white citizens to ride the buses under present conditions.

## THIS SITUATION WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED IF ALL BUS PASSENGERS WERE TREATED AS AMERICANS

On Saturday, May 26th, 1956, two tired young ladies of the Negro race boarded a crowded bus. The only vacant seat they could find was by an elderly White lady. The bus driver demanded that they stand, or get off the bus. They asked for their money back. He refused to make a refund. Instead he called the police, who arrested them. This was the overflowing cup of humiliation, which caused individual Negro bus riders to seek other means of transportation. This incident would never have happened, if American citizens regardless of race had the right to sit on any seat on the bus. Such incidents as this will not happen when every American citizen, regardless of race has the right to sit on any seat on the public bus. This is the only morally just way to solve the problem.

## THE PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED

This ugly problem of arbitrary bus seating has been with us for a long, long time, but it has been kept hidden from the community at large. Now all of us can see the cancerous sore. Since possibly our elected public officials might feel unsure of their ground in solving this problem in the only morally just way, we, the community at large must let them know that we support moral right and justice for all citizens.

## DIGEST OF PROPOSALS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

On June 4, 1956, the Inter Civic Council presented three requests and proposals to the City Commission and Cities Transit, Inc., and asked that they be put into operation. The proposals and requests are as follows:

1. Since the present bus seating arrangement is economically unsound, humiliating, arbitrary, inequitable, inconvenient and morally unjustifiable; all bus passengers shall have the right to sit wherever they choose on any bus or buses.

2. Since people of all races, by their patronage contribute to the support of the bus company, people of all races should have an opportunity to work for the bus company in various capacities.

3. That all bus drivers be constantly reminded of their never ending obligations to render courteous service, and equitable treatment to all passengers, regardless of race, creed or color.

At the City Commission meeting on the same day, Acting City Attorney Ben C. Willis in answer to question as to whether or not the City Commission had the authority to grant the request, in point number one, he stated that the City Commission had the authority, but would have to amend the bus company franchise. The City Commission would not amend the franchise. The franchise has been amended before. It can be amended now.

## CONFERENCE WITH THE CITY COMMISSION

1956, at 2:30 P. M. ... from The Inter Civic Council of Tallahassee

errect.

## BUS COMPANY CREATES OWN DILEMMA

The average person, be he White or Colored, is aware that as a general rule, businesses which serve their customers well generally survive and prosper. Possibly Cities Transit should recheck its operational plans and see if it has met this test.

## CITY COMMISSIONERS CANCEL 2ND CONFERENCE WITH INTER CIVIC COUNCIL

The City Commission cancelled the 2nd conference with the Inter Civic Council scheduled for Wednesday, June 13th, at 2:30 P. M. because the City Commission had no opinion on the proposals previously presented by The Inter Civic Council.

## WHAT SOME WHITE PEOPLE SAY WHO DON'T RIDE THE BUS

Conversations with numbers of White people, who don't ride the bus, but who shop with Negroes in various stores, and aren't afraid to stand next to them when making purchases, agree that on a public bus it is right that all persons who pay their fare be permitted to sit wherever they choose.

## WHITE BUS RIDERS SPEAK OUT FOR JUSTICE

Conversations with a number of White people who do ride the bus, say that it is fair on a public bus that any person who pays his fare should have the right to sit wherever he chooses. These White bus riders added that then they would not be embarrassed, because they know when the bus driver might tell them that they must move, because they are in the colored section of the bus. With the new seating plan it would be a bus for all of every race.

## BUS FARE INCREASE MAKES PUBLIC PAY FOR BUS COMPANY'S REGRESS WITH THE TIMES

The recent increase in bus fares makes the public pay more money for the bus which keeps alive a bus seating plan that is economically unsound and morally unjust.

## WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY? BUS COMPANY OR CITY COMMISSION

Clearly now the bus situation is one for which either the city or the bus company take no little responsibility. Should the bus company cease operations, because it is not permitted to serve all members of the public on an economically sound, and the public can check the record and determine for itself the wisdom of the action taken.

## HIRING QUALIFIED NEGRO EMPLOYEES

It is true that the selection and hiring of employees is a management function, but "management," which is interested in the progress of the entire community will not ignore all segments, who help provide its income also share in the employment opportunities to offer.

## IS CITIES TRANSIT INTERESTED IN THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY?

We do not know whether Cities Transit, Inc., is interested in the progress of the entire community, and all segments of the population of Tallahassee. What interest does Cities Transit have in its Negro passengers who spent over ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS on bus fares last year? The Negro bus riding public gave Cities Transit, Inc., approximately \$100,000.00 in business last year.

## IS CITIES TRANSIT GETTING SOUND ADVICE?

Whether Cities Transit, Inc., is being advised to work for the interest of the entire community, and grant employment opportunities to all segments of the population of Tallahassee, the fact that the City Commission's report of June 15, 1956, indicates that

the bus company franchise. The City Commission has not amended the franchise. The franchise has been amended before. It can be amended now.

### CONFERENCE WITH THE CITY COMMISSION

On Friday, June 8, 1956, at 2:30 P. M., a committee from The Inter Civic Council of Tallahassee had a face to face conference with the City Commission, which lasted a little over three hours. The full Commission consisting of The Honorable Fred S. Winterle, J. W. Cordell, John Y. Humphress, H. C. Summitt and W. T. Mayo was present.

The City Commission made it clear at the outset that the hiring of Negro employees was a management problem, which was left up to the bus company. The Commission also added that it was not aware that Negro bus passengers had been mistreated on the buses.

The group then proceeded to a discussion of the present economically unsound and morally unjustifiable bus seating arrangement, which works a hardship on all bus passengers.

The Commission asked City Attorney James Messer, Jr., about the legality of its authority to amend the bus company franchise, in regard to the seating of bus passengers, Attorney Messer told the City Commission that it had the legal authority to amend the bus company franchise.

Many reasons were pointed out to the City Commission, why the economically unsound and morally unjustifiable bus seating plan should be changed. Among them was the fact that a public bus service is not a social gathering, where people meet to dine and to dance. A public bus service is a low cost method of getting from one destination to another destination as quickly as possible.

The average bus passenger is concerned with getting where he is going quickly. The average bus passenger is not concerned about the color, or looks, or dress of the passenger next to him, in front of him or behind him. The average bus passenger isn't concerned with the problems of the other passengers on the bus. The average bus passenger is only concerned with himself, and how quickly he can reach his destination. The average bus passenger wants all other bus passengers to have the same right that he has, the right to sit anywhere on the bus he chooses, and not be molested or humiliated.

It was also pointed out to the Commission that when the average person desires greater privacy, exclusiveness, ultra convenience or door-to-door service, he knows this is not available on the public transportation service; therefore he uses his car or a cab on these occasions.

Even with the presentation of these and a number of other reasons, the Commission still would not change the bus franchise, so that all passengers would have the right to feel like full fledged American citizens, and sit in any seat on the bus without humiliation or embarrassment.

### PROPOSALS MADE AT THE CONFERENCE BY THE INTER CIVIC COUNCIL

During the Conference with the City Commission on June 8th, the Inter Civic Council also suggested that a future date of 30, 60, or 90 days be set, at which time this morally just and economic-

### IS CITIES TRANSIT GETTING SOUND ADVICE?

Whether Cities Transit, Inc., is being advised to work for the interest of the community, and grant employment opportunities to all segments of the population. However, a public statement by Cities Transit on Friday, June 15, 1956, indicates that Cities Transit, Inc., is making plans to cease operations for an indefinite period, beginning July 1st, if Cities Transit, Inc., faced the realities of the situation its contemplated action would

### BUS COMPANY MAKES NO COMMITMENT ON COURTEOUS TREATMENT

Speaking of courtesy, the bus company says that it has always recognized courtesy as a watchword in any business, and it shall continue to be guided by that feeling in the best help circumstances will permit us." What does this statement mean regarding Negro bus passengers?

### UNSOLICITED CONTRIBUTIONS SENT TO INTER CIVIC COUNCIL

As an indication of the moral right of this cause both White and Colored people who believe in justice for all people, have sent unsolicited cash donations to the Inter Civic Council of Tallahassee. We thank you one and all.

### INTER CIVIC COUNCIL BORN IN THE CHURCH

The Inter Civic Council of Tallahassee had its birth in the Church. It shall be based on religious and moral principles. The Inter Civic Council was born because the people of Tallahassee, from its vast membership the members of The Inter Civic Council have elected an executive committee to carry on its business affairs.

The Inter Civic Council is dedicated to the task of helping in the building of a better Tallahassee.

### THIS IS TALLAHASSEE'S HOUR FOR MORAL LEADERSHIP

Events of the past few days have given Tallahassee a great new opportunity. This is Tallahassee's hour to add new laurels to her illustrious name as the world focus their attention on this great capital city of Florida.

Let us hope and pray that whatever decision the people of Tallahassee make from the depths of their souls, they can say under God, "This is a morally right decision."

# The Inter Civic Council of Tallahassee

INCORPORATED

803 FLORAL STREET

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, JUNE 20, 1956

Done by the Executive Committee On Unanimous Vote of The Inter-Civic Council of Tallahassee, Inc.

Rev. C. K. Steele Rev. K. S. Dupont Rev. J. Metz Rollins, Jr. Dan B. Speed Elbert W. Jones Dr. M. C. Williams Dr. James Hudson Father David H. Brooks

6/27

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office <b>MOBILE</b>	Office of Origin <b>MOBILE</b>	Date <b>6/21/56</b>	Investigative Period <b>6-18, 19-56</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>RACIAL SITUATION MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA</b> <i>RACON</i>		Report made by [REDACTED]	Typed By: <b>-beh</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	<b>7C</b>

**Synopsis:**

Records of St. Margaret's Hospital and Veterans Administration Hospital, both at Montgomery, Ala., reflect no treatment of T. P. SELLERS.

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/20/83 BY [signature]**

**DETAILS: AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

On June 18, 1956, [REDACTED] Veterans Administration Hospital, Perry Hill Road, made a check of the hospital records, reporting T. P. SELLERS had never received treatment at that hospital. **W**

On June 18, 1956, [REDACTED] Saint Margaret's Hospital, 834 Adams Avenue, searched the hospital records for the period since January 1, 1956. [REDACTED] reported T. P. SELLERS had not been a patient during 1956.

*1cc 1. AAG 1. [unclear] - Form 6-94 6-29-56 LEC*  
**-E-** *Status changed to closed  
date 6-29-56 LEC*

Approved <i>[Signature]</i>	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made: 2-Bureau (AM) (100-135-61) 2-Mobile (44-439)		100-135-61-178	RECORDED-20
1cc: AAG CRIMINAL DIVISION FORM 6-94 6-22-56 LEC		JUN 25 1956	EX-129

**55 JUL 10 1956**  
*INVESTIGATIVE DIV  
REC'D*  
**7C**

MO- 44-439

LEADS

MOBILE DIVISION

AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Continue to follow pertinent activities relating to the racial situation.

REFERENCES

Bulet to Mobile, 6/15/56.

Report of SA [REDACTED] 5/14/56, Mobile.

7C

-ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE-

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-135 Sub 61)      DATE: 7/2/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361)

*Assistance Against Negroes*

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

For the information of the Bureau, there are transmitted herewith two copies each of the following newspaper items:

1. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Fla., 6/26/56, captioned "GLIMMER OF HOPE DAWNS IN NEGRO BUS BOYCOTT."
2. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Fla., 6/26/56, captioned "WHITE VIEW."
3. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Fla., 6/26/56, captioned "NEGRO VIEW."
4. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Fla., 6/27/56, captioned "IT MAY HAVE CLEARED THE AIR."
5. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Fla., 6/28/56, captioned "NEGROES GET RIDE PROMISE."

2 - Bureau (Encl. 10) (100-135-Sub 61)  
2 - Mobile (100-1361)

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~~INDEXED - 21~~

21 W  
10 ENCLOSURE

*rec'd encl. to Memphis by R/S  
7-10-56*

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/21/83 BY Spack/pc

RECORDED - 21  
INDEXED - 21

100-135-61-179

17 JUL 5 1956

68 JUL 16 1956

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*[Handwritten initials]*

—JULY 1 SUSPENSION DEADLINE STANDS—

## Glimmer Of Hope Dawns In Negro Bus Boycott

By DON MEIKLEJOHN  
Democrat Staff Writer

White and Negro leaders talked over the Tallahassee bus situation for 2½ hours yesterday in the first public inter-racial conference on the month-old boycott and left with a slight glimmer of hope for a compromise.

Some Negro leaders held firmly to demands for complete integration of bus seating, which City officials termed an "impossible request," but other Negroes joined white leaders in urging compromise. The Commission left the door open for a compromise short of full integration.

However, Stetson Coleman, owner of the bus company, said he "can see no change in the situation" and declined with thanks a Junior Chamber of Commerce resolution asking him to postpone suspension of all service until July 9 while a plan is worked out to bolster white patronage of the buses.

"It is our intention to discontinue service on July 1 for an indefinite period with the consent of the City Commission," Coleman said. "It is our feeling that there is an economic demand for this service and it is only on that basis that service should be furnished." He called the boycott "un-American."

The inter-racial meeting was called by the City Commission as a possibility of settling the boycott and preventing the Cities Transit Bus Co. from suspending all operations next Saturday as it has announced it will do. Commissioner W. T. (Continued on Page 2; Col. 3)

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TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
JUNE 26, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61  
Mofile 100-1361

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3 dfg/cl

ENCLOSURE

# Hope In Boycott

From Page 1

Mayo presided. Speakers included:

White leaders who urged a settlement to prevent greater friction between the races.

Representatives of the Negro Inter Civic Council, who said the Negro would "rather walk in dignity than to ride in humiliation."

Several other Negroes who urged leaders of both races to sit down across a table and try to reach an agreement.

Commissioner Mayo told the group the Commission was ready to talk out any possible solution short of full integration on the buses.

## POSITION OUTLINED

Therian Lindsay, attorney for the Inter-Civic Council, outlined the Negro position that it still wanted integrated bus seating.

C. B. Hercy, a member of a group of Negroes who at one time urged the Inter-Civic Council to accept the City Commission proposal on bus seating, made a six point suggestion to the City Commission on Negro problems generally, and several on the bus boycott in particular.

He proposed:

Courtesy to all passengers; shift two drivers off the A & M run to emergency and relief at no cut in salary; call all civic groups together to keep bus company solvent; give Negro police officers a patrol car and supplement them with additional Negro officers; install traffic lights at Negro school crossings, and put in a system of integrated buses on the Florida A & M-Frenchtown run only for a trial basis.

## SIMILAR PROPOSAL

Later in the meeting, the Rev. J. Mel Rollins, treasurer of the Inter-Civic Council, said a similar proposal had been made at a private meeting between the City Commission and the Inter-Civic Council, but the City Commission had turned it down.

Rev. C. E. Steele, president of the Inter-Civic Council, said "Brother Hercy's statements offer some possibilities."

Commissioner Mayo said he appreciated Hercy's suggestions and assured him the Commission would be willing to give them consideration if there were any hope of a solution.

To end the meeting Commissioner Mayo asked the leaders of the Negro group to go back and try to work out proposals to be used as the basis of another meeting to arrive at a solution.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce had asked the bus company to restore service on the suspended FAMU-Frenchtown line and continue operating until July 9. It said it would back up the company during the boycott and work out a plan to help it make financial ends meet.

Bus Owner Coleman replied:

"We received the resolution by the Junior Chamber of Commerce urging that the company continue operating at least through July 9.

"We certainly appreciate the interest and effort on the part of the Junior Chamber. However, since we can see no change in the situation, it is our intention to discontinue service on July 1 for an indefinite period with the consent of the City Commission.

"It is our feeling that there is an economic demand for this service and it is only on that basis that service should be furnished.

"We feel that a boycott is a very un-American way of achieving an objective. Failure by any part of the population to use the courts which is the medium provided for law abiding citizens is definitely the un-American way. The bus company is a law abiding institution and proposes to continue abiding by the laws."

RE: RACIAL CONDITIONS  
Tallahassee, Fla.

From the Tallahassee Democrat  
6/26/56

GDM

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**Negro View**

Dean M. S. Thomas of Florida A. and M. University urged everything possible be done to keep the bus company from going out of business. He said he was not making a plea for retrogression of his race's progress because he believes all Negroes envision a time when they can discard their "second class citizenship."

He said the situation is divided into three groups — extremists for, extremists against, and moderates of both races, and he urged the moderates to find a solution.

John Swilley, a Negro who said he almost felt like he was on both sides, told the group "down deep inside every colored person has the hope he can eventually be removed from second class citizenship."  
(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

From Page 1

**Negro View**

ond class citizenship," but he said he felt that boycotting a bus was "not the proper way to register a protest against something."

He said he felt the approach advocated in Miami of going to court rather than boycotting was a better way to achieve the aim.

Swilley said he had lived in Detroit, and had seen prejudice in Detroit that he hasn't seen in Tallahassee.

The Rev. C. K. Steele, president of the Inter-Civic Council, said he wanted to point out that "nobody has led the people off the buses. They came off themselves."

He said the Negro people feel the bus is one place they don't have to accept indignities. They would rather "walk in dignity than ride in humiliation."

Asked if he felt the people would go back to riding the buses if a solution were reached, Steele said they would if it were an equitable solution.

The Rev. J. Metz Rollins Jr., pastor of the Trinity Presbyterian Church, and treasurer of the Inter-Civic Council, said much had been said during the meeting about the many things that had been "given the Negro."

He said he did not feel the Negro had been given anything that was not rightfully his, and would not want anything more than his just rights.

The Rev. Rollins said he detected a patronizing attitude in which the Negroes were being treated like children who had gotten out of line, and had to be forced back.

He said there seemed to be the idea that if the Negroes went back to riding the bus, the situation would be the same as it always was.

"This city will never be the same again," he said. "I for one would rather see the bus company go than go back to a Jim Crow bus system."

Dean H. M. Efferson of Florida A & M University, said he did not like the word second class citizen, and urged the Negro to stop "telling people you feel like second class citizens. You can't unless you want to. You all have a right to make a contribution."

He said he did not care for mass meetings, and urged that the "thoughtful people get together across a table and work out a solution. Let the sensible people of Tallahassee make the decision."

He said there seemed to be some disagreement among the attitudes of the Negroes, and these should be worked out first. Then, he suggested, a meeting should be arranged to present the solution to a white committee, which would sit down and thrash out the situation with the Negro group.

**TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
JUNE 25, 1956**

**Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61  
Mofile 100-1361**

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**

**DATE 3/30/83 BY *sp3 d/f/gol***

100-135-61-179  
ENCLOSURE

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# Tallahassee Democrat

Wednesday, June 27, 1956

## It May Have Cleared The Air

No immediate solution of the bus boycott problem came out of the first public conference between City officials and leaders of both the white and Negro races Monday; but it certainly did no harm, and we have a feeling the situation was improved a little.

A lot of people on both sides stood up and said frankly how they felt and, more important, they did it without rancor and they did it out in the open where everyone could know exactly how everyone else stood.

When the meeting broke up all the varied elements had a better understanding of conflicting positions and a better view of the realities of the situation.

Our form of government has found no

better way than the public meeting to clear the air and promote such understandings. The good old American custom of standing up in meeting to say what you think cannot be matched by tight little secret conferences, manipulations and maneuverings when a vital question of public concern is involved.

The door was left ajar for some sort of settlement short of full integration of bus seating.

We hope such a settlement can be reached. The boycott leaders should now recognize that there will be no settlement on the basis of complete integration, and that if they persist in their demands they will only disintegrate a bus system instead of integrating one.



TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
JOHN M. TAPERS, EDITOR  
JUNE 27, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61  
Mofile 100-1361

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3 cle/gel

100-135-61-179  
ENCLOSURE

4

# Negroes Get Ride Promise

## Saturday May Be Last Day For Buses To Run In City

Members of the Tallahassee Inter Civic Council cheered last night when the Rev. C. K. Steele, council president, promised that transportation will be provided for Negroes if the City bus company terminates service Saturday as announced.

Cities Transit Co., Inc., under boycott since May 28, has announced that it will suspend all service indefinitely July 1, because of a 60 percent revenue loss felt since the boycott began.

Stetson Coleman, president of the bus company, said today he had sold five of the company's buses and they will be taken from Tallahassee tomorrow for delivery to the purchaser. He added, however, that such a sale is not unusual in the fluid operation of a concern which has rolling stock in several cities.

### MEETINGS FAIL

A series of meetings between white and Negro groups, official and unofficial, has failed thus far to find a solution to the disagreement which stems mainly from the Negroes' insistence that all people be allowed to sit on buses wherever they choose and the City and bus company's refusal to grant the demand.

City officials say they could not alter the bus franchise to permit such seating even if they wanted to, because of existing state laws.

Rev. Steele told an estimated 300 people at the mass meeting last night, "if the bus company goes out of business, if the City would rather have them go out

of business than give us democratic seating on the buses, then it will be incumbent on the Inter Civic Council to provide transportation for our people and we will do so."

### 'READY TO VOTE'

He urged the members to keep their spirit up, be friendly and "be ready to vote in November as that'll be an important election."

Questioned later, Steele explained that he meant that a strong Negro vote in the national election would be a forecast of a strong vote to come in the next local election.

Steele said today that the only "possibility" he could see for an immediate compromise would be an agreement by the city and bus company to allow all people to sit wherever they choose on buses, "after a 60 or 90 day cooling off period," but he said that idea was once rejected by City commissioners.

No more mass meetings of the Civic Council are scheduled until Sunday night, after bus service is scheduled to terminate, but Steele said there is a chance of another meeting with City officials although he did not know when it would be held, if at all.

C. L. Carter, bus company vice president and manager said he couldn't see much hope of a settlement but "you never know until the last man is out in the ninth inning."

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
JUNE 28, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61  
Mofile 100-1361

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/30/83 BY sp3 clc/ycl

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June 29, 1956

Airtel

SAC, Mobile (44-439)

*Loan*

RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, CIVIL RIGHTS.

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Rerep of SA [redacted] dated 6-21-56. Status changed to closed inasmuch as specific request of Criminal Division has been complied with. The Bureau, of course, should be appropriately advised of pertinent activities relating to the racial situation as they occur.

HOOVER

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RECORDED - 15

*100-135-6-101*

7 JUL 3 1956

EX-109

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mason \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE *3/20/83* BY *SP/ahm*

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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

**DATE:** 7/6/56

**FROM :** SAC, Mobile (100-1361)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

**SUBJECT:** RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3cl/ycl

For further interest of the Bureau there are attached hereto two copies of an item appearing in the Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 7/4/56, captioned "RACIAL DIFFERENCES DISCUSSED AT MEET."

2 - Bureau (100-135 Sub 61) (Encl. 2)

1 - Mobile (100-1361)

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*1 cc general to Tompkins  
by 6-6  
7-13-56  
ENCLOSURE  
6-7C*

RECORDED - 65  
INDEXED - 69

100-135-61-113

EX-109

23 JUL 9 1956

JUL 13 1956

EX-109

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# Racial Differences Discussed At Meet

Two City Commissioners met with leaders of the Negro Inter Civic Council yesterday in a continuing effort to settle racial differences here.

The vice president of the Council told reporters after the meeting that local Negroes have no desire to boycott downtown merchants.

The statement was made by Rev. K. S. DuPont after a private meeting with two members of the City Commission yesterday afternoon.

DuPont said "We do not intend at any time to work any hardship on our merchants. We've had a very fine relationship with them and all we're asking is better treatment of our drivers by the police force."

Commissioners W. T. Mayo and John Humphress conferred with Negro leaders of the Council for two hours yesterday. Mayo said "there were some misunderstandings and I think the conference largely cleared them up."

#### IT COULD HELP

"We didn't agree on any specific points nothing, you could put your finger on," Mayo said. Asked if he thought the conference would have any future effect on the bus boycott, Mayo said "it could."

Other developments in the last 24 hours include:

A planned meeting of the Inter Civic Council for tonight to discuss the situation arising from the bus boycott;

A tentatively planned meeting of the City Commission with the Inter Civic Council Thursday;

A statement by DuPont that "We have refused to take money from the NAACP and have kept our affairs strictly on a local basis with donations from individuals and the churches."

Gov. LeRoy Collins Monday criticized the NAACP for its part in the local bus boycott.

of downtown merchants.

Of yesterday's conference, DuPont said "it was very cordial and I believe we have a better understanding of each other."

DuPont told reporters a meeting of the City Commission and the Inter Civic Council executive

committee has been tentatively set for Thursday.

There was no public announcement of yesterday's meeting between the two Commissioners and the Negroes but reporters saw the men leaving the Bethel AME church.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/30/83 BY Sp3 cdc/gol

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61  
Mofile 100-1361

TALLAHASSEE "DEMOCRAT"  
7/4/56  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.

GDM

STEELE ABSENT  
Rev. C. K. Steele, president of the Inter Civic Council and the local NAACP chapter, did not attend yesterday's conference. It was Steele who suggested Sunday night a possible boycott.

ENCLOSURE

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-135 Sub 61) DATE: 7/6/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

*RACON*

DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3 dcl/gcl

For information of the Bureau, there are enclosed herewith two copies each of the following newspaper items:

1. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Fla., 6/29/56, captioned "ANTI-BOYCOTT EFFORTS MADE."
2. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Fla., 7/1/56, captioned "CAPITAL LOSES BUS SERVICE AFTER 17 YEARS."
3. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Fla., 7/1/56, captioned "SO THE BUSES STOPPED."
4. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Fla., 7/2/56, captioned "PHOTOS OF CLOSED MEETING DESTROYED."
5. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Fla., 7/2/56, captioned "GOVERNOR FLAYS NAACP."
6. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Fla., 7/2/56, captioned "NO 'POLICE INTIMIDATION' OF NEGROES, CHIEF SAYS"

2 - Bureau (100-135 Sub 61) (Encl. 12)  
1 - Mobile (100-1361)

*7C*

*1 cc of each encl. to AA 93  
by form 6-95 A 7-24-56 RSL*

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JRDED - 47 100-135-61-183

ENCLOSURE

JUL 9 1956

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## — So The Buses Stopped

Tallahassee today is a city without bus service.

It is in that position because a minority used an economic boycott as a lever to force its unyielding desires further and faster than a majority is willing to go.

When the boycott started a month ago, we urged the Negro leaders to beware lest they gain an inch of satisfaction but lose a mile of progress. We think that's what has happened, except that they can't have even gained much satisfaction.

The last offer by the City Commission seemed fair to us. We think it seemed fair to an overwhelming segment of the white population which forms the majority of the city's residents. We believe many Negroes would consider it a definite gain, maybe even more than they had expected.

It would have set aside for Negroes every seat except one on buses serving the principal Negro sections, and would have given that uncomfortable triple seat to the race which got to it first. It would have removed any City restrictions against employment of Negro bus drivers, and set up an interracial committee to work out future problems.

Such a proposal would have stopped just an inch short of integration of seating on buses which carry most of the Negro passengers—the only buses that ever are really crowded.

But the Negro leaders wanted all or nothing—full integration of bus seating and a guarantee that Negro drivers be employed within 30 days.

It did not occur to them, or they re-

fused to believe, that realities of the situation do not permit the City Commission in its responsibility to the majority of all the people to go further. They would not accept the fact that there would be practical difficulties for the bus company in discharging satisfactory white employes and replacing them with Negroes.

They refused to yield to the first class American system of compromise to solve a serious controversy. We believe they erred in that, just as they erred in choosing a boycott instead of more democratic processes in an attempt to attain their ends.

What have they gained? Nothing!

They have deprived all the people of Tallahassee of bus service. They have put what is being advertised throughout the nation as an alert and modern city in the position of having to tell prospective new residents we have no means of mass transportation.

They have caused the worst interracial bitterness in many years to descend on the city.

They have alienated the sympathy of many white moderates who were willing to help them make racial progress.

Someday buses will run again. We hope it will be soon because Tallahasseeans of both races need and want bus service.

And we hope the Negro leaders will learn from this that pressure applied to the center of a taut line can only break the string or force a serious strain at both ends.

SEE DEMOCRAT  
SEE, FLORIDA  
1956  
TAPERS, EDITOR

IAL SITUATION  
LAHASSEE, FLA.  
file 100-1361  
file 100-135 Sub 61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY Sp3 cbc/gcl

ICC: AAG CRIMINAL DIVISION  
FORM 6-95 -7-7/24/56-70

# Capital Loses Bus Service After 17 Years Last Run Made After Boycott By Negroes

Tallahassee is without bus service for the first time in 17 years as the last Cities Transit buses ceased operations at 11:30 last night after a month-old Negro boycott.

Stetson Coleman, president of Cities Transit, Inc., said, "the boycott is over because there's nothing to boycott."

The last buses left the Park Avenue and Monroe street station at 11:30 p.m.

The boycott started on the Florida A & M Campus May 28 after the arrest May 26 of two Negro coeds for placing themselves "in a position to incite riot," after they sat beside a white woman on the last vacant seat on a bus. The charges were dropped, but the boycott grew into a demand for integrated bus seating and employment of Negro drivers.

## CONFERENCES HELD

In a written statement to the City Commission, Coleman said many conferences had been held since the bus company notified the Commission it would have to cease operations July 1.

"You (The Commission) have been willing to make real concessions which were agreeable to us, but the Negro leaders who have been in Tallahassee only a few years and who allegedly speak for the boycotters, have turned down all of your proposals. They have wiped out the middle ground. They have left no room for the moderates.

The Negro leaders have talked plausibly about justice and yet they have employed one of the most unAmerican of all weapons—an economic boycott," Coleman said.

## 'A SEVERE BLOW'

"The discontinuance of bus service is a severe blow to any community and a great inconvenience to many people. It is regrettable that irresponsible leadership among the Negroes have been willing to do this to the people of this community. As we suspend operations, we repeat that we have previously said: To these leaders goes the credit, and also the blame for the results of the boycott—present and future."

The City Commission again emphasized in a public statement that every effort has been made to reach a solution but "Your City Commission cannot and will not accede" demands for full integration.

The city said it had received reports of threats against Negroes who might ride the bus. (Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

# Capital Loses Bus Service

and added:

"It is unfortunate that the fine leadership which the Negroes of Tallahassee have enjoyed in the past, leadership that had its roots soundly planted here for substantial period of time, has been discarded in favor of a group, many of whom are newcomers to Tallahassee, and who apparently have no feeling of responsibility to the community, the general public or to even members of their own race."

"Some day there will be a realization on the part of those that have been misled by their so-called leaders that they have been and are being exploited for the benefit of those leaders for their own glory, advancement and gain."

At a meeting Friday night, about 250 Negroes turned down the City Commission's final proposal and voted to try to set up their own transportation system if the bus company stopped operating.

In an effort to reach a compromise, the City offered to amend the bus company franchise permitting it to employ Negro drivers on predominantly Negro lines and permitting open seating on predominantly Negro lines except for a three-passenger lateral seat in front.

Under the Commission proposal, this seat would be reserved for potential white passengers until all other seats were filled and then the "first come first served" rule would apply.

On other routes, the City's first proposal for "first come, first served" on the last seat would prevail under the compromise offered. This would mean Negroes would continue to sit from rear, and white from the front.

When all but the last seat was filled, the race first sitting down would establish priority, and a passenger at the other end would have to stand.

The City's last offer also included establishment of a committee to work on interracial problems "after settlement of the boycott."

The Inter-Civic Council countered with a demand that Negro drivers be employed within 30 days and the seating controversy be decided by a committee of 12 white members sitting with 12 Negroes selected by the Inter-Civic Council.

The City turned this proposal down, and withdrew its compromise offer.

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
JULY 1, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Mofile 100-1361  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61

ICC: AAG CRIMINAL DIVISION  
FORM 6-95 7-24/56-100

ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/20/82 BY sp2/clj/fel

## New Boycott Is Threatened Here

# No 'Police Intimidation' Of Negroes, Chief Says

A Negro boycott leader's declaration that members of his race may have to take their business out of the downtown section unless "police intimidation" is stopped brought a quick denial of improper treatment from Police Chief Frank Stoutamire today.

Rev. C. K. Steele, president of the Negro Inter Civic Council, told several hundred Negroes at a meeting last night they might have to arrange excursions to "other cities" to trade if intimidation continues.

Chief Stoutamire said police were cracking down on traffic violators "but it applies to everyone, black and white."

A Tallahassee Democrat reporter's check of police records showed this morning there were fewer Negro arrests for traffic violations during the two-week period at the height of the boycott than during the corresponding period of the previous month, before the boycott started. There were 115 Negro arrests in the period from June 12-27, compared with 119 from May 12-27. The boycott started May 28.

Steele accused police of making arrests for the slightest violation of city traffic ordinances. He said the police are rude and often "brutally so" and subject Negroes at police headquarters to a "third degree" for violations that ordi-

narily mean nothing more than a violation ticket placed on the windshield.

Stoutamire said "I've never seen any third degree. I've never seen anyone mistreated as long as I've been chief. I just wouldn't stand for it. We're not picking on anybody, we're just trying to do a job."

At last night's meeting, the Rev. Steele said "it appears that our City police have decided to run us out of town—that is, off Monroe and Adams streets."

"It seems they don't recognize that we are in town not to break laws, but to pay bills and give business and patronage to stores that are friendly to us there."

As a possible countermeasure, Steele said, "if they continue their police intimidation it will finally become necessary for us to stay out of town and make other arrangements. We may even have to form excursions to other cities to spend what little money we have to spend."

A "private meeting" of the City Commission was held today to discuss the bus situation as Tallahassee went into its second day without transit service.

Mayo said that after discussing the situation the Commission agreed to "stand pat on its original statement."

In this statement, the Com-  
(Continued on Page 1, Col. 1)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/30/83 BY sp3ck/hcl

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
JULY 2, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
No file 100-1361  
Bufile 100-135 sub 61

ICC: AAG CRIMINAL DIVISION  
FORM 6-55 - 7/24/56 T.C.

From Page 1

## No 'Police Intimidation'

mission offered a "first come, first served" policy on the last seat. Under the policy, Negroes would continue to sit from the rear and whites from the front.

The race first sitting in the last seat would establish priority and the other race would have to stand.

A more liberal policy on the Frenchtown-Florida A & M run which was advanced last week has been withdrawn, Mayo said.

Under this policy, Negroes could sit anywhere on the bus except the triple seat in front, which would be reserved for white passengers. If all the seats except the triple seat were filled, the race first sitting down in the triple seat would establish priority and the other would have to stand.

He said the possibility of putting buses back on a limited run basis was not discussed at the meeting.

The Cities Transit Bus Co. which pulled its buses out of service Saturday night after a month-long Negro boycott, had all employes on the job today doing general cleanup and servicing.

Charles L. Carter bus company manager, said, "We'll find enough for everyone to do."

Asked if the bus company had any plans for going back on a limited service basis, Carter said, "that all depends on the public and the City Commission. If they want us to, we're here to carry out their wishes."

A check of white taxi cabs on the first work day since bus service was discontinued showed no big increase in the number of passengers.

Four Hundred Cabs Inc., reported "a few extra customers and some calls inquiring about rates, but not enough to make a big difference."

At Victory Cabs, business was reported to be "about the same as any Monday when we're usually pretty busy."

Steele told the meeting the Negro community regretted that the bus company was forced to suspend service but, he said, the company "committed suicide."

"It died," he said, "at the hands of bus drivers who persisted in insulting its negro patrons who supplied its life giving stream of revenue."

Steele said, "There is a subtle conspiracy between the owners of the company (bus), the Commissioners and the Tallahassee Democrat to accuse a few of us as the murderers of the city's transportation system."

He blamed "a lack of interest in true democracy" by the city commissioners for the boycott and reaffirmed the determination of the negro population here never again to accept segregated seating.

To supplement the Inter Civic Council's voluntary car pool service, the Rev. Steele outlined a jitney bus system to be initiated.

He said it would include running a bus donated by the St. Pete Church Choir, which will travel the heaviest routes "but avoiding Monroe and Adams streets."

Two station wagons sponsored by churches also will be in operation, with other churches planning additional station wagons. He said the volunteer car pool will be gradually replaced by full-time church sponsored service.

The legality of the bus service is still up in the air. The Negro bus was taken out of service several weeks ago after police arrested the driver for "obstructing traffic."

At that time, the bus was taken off pending a City decision on the legality of running the bus.

City Manager Arvah Hopkins said the bus stops are being converted for parking and will add about 35 spaces.

In the downtown sections, Hopkins said the spaces will be metered.

Five buses that have been sold to a firm in Cuba left town this morning for Pensacola. The buses were supposed to have left Friday, but the trip was delayed until today for servicing.

RE RACIAL CONDITIONS  
Tallahassee, Fla.

"Democrat" 7/2/56

Tallahassee, Fla.

GDM

ICC: AAG CRIMINAL DIVISION  
FORM 6-95 - 7/24/56 - CC

*miscarriage of ambition'*

## Governor Flays NAACP

Governor Collins said today he regarded as "a miscarriage of ambition" efforts of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People which resulted in discontinuing bus service in Tallahassee.

In response to a question at a news conference, the Governor said as a citizen of Tallahassee he "will be glad to help" any way he can to bring about "a satisfactory settlement and a resumption of an attitude of mutual helpfulness and friendliness" between the races.

His statement in full:

"Efforts made here by the NAACP which have resulted in discontinuance of bus service in this community I regard as a miscarriage of ambition.

"If this organization is interested in advancing the welfare of our Negro citizens it should concern itself with other conditions of far more importance than where people sit on buses.

"There are many areas for real and substantial improvement such as health standards, moral standards and educational

standards in which they could become engaged with a great deal more benefit to the people they represent.

"In this community a great amount of progress has been made in recent years in improving the welfare of our Negroes. This progress has been made with the active interest and mutual helpfulness of our white and Negro citizens alike.

"Negroes have been encouraged to vote and take an active part in civic affairs. The City Commission has provided funds to assist in the building here of one of the finest Negro hospitals in the Country. The City has also developed an outstanding recreation program for our Negro youth including playgrounds and a community swimming pool just as adequate in every respect as that provided for white citizens.

"Our negroes have been provided with modern school buildings and well-trained teachers.

"We have been fighting a winning battle to eliminate midwifery and to clear out

alums.

"The tragedy of this bus situation is that it has gained nothing for the Negroes and much has been lost in the tensions and antagonisms which have been developed. In effect the Negroes who have been furnishing the leadership and the agitation in the bus integration have turned their backs on the

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

From Page 1

## Governor Raps NAACP Here

agencies and the citizens of the community who have been helping them most.

"Now I frankly think that the Negroes had some just grievances about the operation of the bus service but it is clear to me that the City authorities indicated in good faith a willingness to adjust these grievances.

"I think it was terribly shortsighted and unreasonable for the leaders of the boycott movement not to accept these adjustments, relieve the tension and reestablish the general attitude which has long prevailed here for the steady and proper improvement of the Negro and his opportunities.

"I hope that when the full impact of what has been done here is understood a new effort will be made to bring about a satisfactory settlement and a resumption of an attitude of mutual helpfulness and friendliness.

"As a citizen of Tallahassee, if I can be of any help in accomplishing this, I will be glad to do so."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/30/83 BY spzdc/jcl

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
JULY 2, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Mofile 100-1361  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61

ICC: AAG CRIMINAL DIVISION  
FORM 6-95-7-7/24/56-72

**In City Manager's Office**

## Photos Of Closed Meeting Destroyed

News pictures taken surreptitiously of a closed City Commission meeting on the bus boycott situation were destroyed in City Manager Arvah Hopkins' office this morning.

Hopkins said Stan Wayman, Miami free lance photographer on assignment from Life magazine, surrendered his film voluntarily after commissioners protested.

Wayman said he did it because "it was either that or go to jail," since Hopkins already had called police to back up his demands that film or the camera be turned over to the city.

Bob Delaney, Tallahassee re-

porter who was present as part time correspondent for Life magazine, said City Commissioner Joe Cordell demanded that the camera be given up when he learned the pictures were for Life.

Up to then, Delaney said, Wayman and the officials had tentatively agreed to let the roll of film be developed in the police station darkroom and to destroy only pictures of the Commission.

### 'LIKE A NICE BOY'

Cordell said "we just objected to the way he went about it. If he had knocked on the door and asked, we probably would have let him take a picture of the Commission. We have no hard feelings. He seemed like a nice boy."

Wayman said his whole roll of film—with only three or four exposures left—was ruined by exposure to light when he ripped it out of his camera and handed it to the city officials. He said it was his whole morning's work.

On the film were three pictures which he said he shot blind by raising the camera above his head and pointing it through a window above the door into the City manager's office...

"There was just one chance in a hundred that I got anything at all" in the picture, he said "and the chances were a thousand to one against it ever getting in the magazine.

"I was just trying to do my job. I took pictures at the Negro meeting last night. This morning, when I heard the City Commission was meeting, I tried to get pictures of them. All I wanted was five guys sitting around the table. It was a dull picture, but it was my job to try to get it."

Wayman arrived at the Commission meeting after it started and, along with reporters, found the door closed.

After someone in the meeting saw his camera pointing through the window, Hopkins and Cordell left the room and stopped the photographer on the street. The argument worked from there back into Hopkins' office.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/30/83 BY sps dc/g cl

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
JULY 2, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Nofile 100-1361  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61

ICC: AAG CRIMINAL DIVISION  
FORM 6-95 17-2/24/56

FBI

Date: 6/22/56

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

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

AIR MAIL - REGISTERED

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS

RE : RACIAL SITUATION  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/30/83 BY 306/BAUM

To Room Mobile

Agent in Charge, Branch Office, OSI, New Orleans, L. H. COLEMAN, advised 6/22/56, he had just received copy of letter addressed to M. L. KING, 309 S. Jackson St., Montgomery, Ala., dated 6/3/56, signed "District #14, AFWMC." COLEMAN stated he believed this means Air Force White Men's Committee. Two copies of this letter are attached for the Bureau and offices receiving this airtel. The letter refers to the NAACP as the Negroes' Advancement Association for the Communist Party. It states, "We are organizing clubs and chapters throughout the armed forces. We are going to stand up and be counted as a 'white man.'" The letter stated the NAACP has suggested that the Government employ Federal troops in order that the white people must submit to all orders coming from the NAACP. However, the letter pointed out that "we, the White Military Men, are the Federal troops you are speaking about." The letter indicated same is endorsed by chapters from the following

- Fort Benning, Ga.
- Robins AFB, Ga.
- Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- Fort Rucker, Ala.
- Keesler AFB, Miss.
- Craig AFB, Ala.
- Tyndall AFB, Fla.

*Bernard Drenell*  
*OSI advised 6-27-56*  
*to discuss*  
*JJD*

COLEMAN stated he did not know the extent of dissemination of this information to the various armed forces and

- 3 - Bureau (100-135-61) (Encls. 2) (REGISTERED - AIR MAIL)
- 2 - Mobile (1-44-439; 1-100-1320) (REGISTERED - AIR MAIL) (Encls. 2)
- 2 - Atlanta (Encls. 2) (REGISTERED - AIR MAIL)
- 4 - New Orleans (2-100-15927) (1-100-13182) (1-100-15424)

*Let to AC I*  
*mag. 7/2/56*

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED-66

100-135-61-184  
14 JUL 10 1956

Approved: *[Signature]*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTOR, FBI

6/22/56

RE: RACIAL SITUATION  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

*b7c  
per  
AFOSI*

and whether same has been furnished to the Atlanta and Mobile  
Offices of this Bureau. He advised the letter was found by  
Major L. O. AMUNDSON on 6/5/56 on the front lawn of his home,  
[REDACTED] COLEMAN pointed out  
that M. L. KING is the individual in Montgomery who has been  
leading the Montgomery bus boycott.

COLEMAN stated that OSI is instituting inquiry  
through confidential informants in air bases and conducting  
other investigation to determine the source of this letter.

Copies of this airtel have been furnished the Mobile  
and Atlanta Offices inasmuch as it is not known whether  
they have already received this info. No action is being taken  
in this matter by New Orleans, UACB.

CHILES

END

C O P Y

M. L. King  
309 S. Jackson Street  
Montgomery, Alabama

June 3, 1956  
Noon

M. L. King

Do you, sincerely, preach the words from the Holy Bible?

- The answer is "NO". However, you do preach the words from the NAACP (Negroes Advancement Association for the Communist Party) book.

You may wonder what this is all about. The answer is simple - We are getting tired of your NAACP (Negroes Advancement Association for the Communist Party) threats. We are organizing clubs and chapters throughout the Armed Forces. We are going to stand up and be counted as a "White Man". Our voices are going out to the public. The NAACP (Negroes Advancement Association for the Communist Party) and its high supporters have suggested that the government employ federal troops in order that the white people must submit to all orders coming from the NAACP (Negroes Advancement Association for the Communist Party), (Integration). However, your weak minds over looked one highly polished item; We, the White Military Men, are the federal troops you are speaking about.

Since when do you NAACP people think we "White Military Men" will stoop so low and weak as to take up deadly weapons and shoot down in cold blood our little children, wives, sisters and brothers, mothers and fathers, for the sake of enforcing your NAACP (Negroes Advancement for the Communist Party) orders. You

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED~~

~~HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~DATE 3/30/83~~

~~BY 6306/gcl~~

C O P Y CONT.

better put this little reminder in your little black book, because,  
THAT DAY WILL NEVER COME. This notice is endorsed by Chapters  
from the following:

Fort Benning Georgia  
Robins Air Force Base, Georgia  
Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama  
Fort Rucker, Alabama  
Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi  
Craig Air Force Base, Alabama  
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida

/s/ District #14  
AFWMC

cc - Liaison Section  
Mr. [REDACTED]

7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/30/83 BY [REDACTED]

100-135-61 16-1

RECORDED-66

EX-109

Date: July 2, 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

On June 22, 1956, L. H. Coleman, the Agent in Charge of the New Orleans office of the Office of Special Investigations, advised he had just received a copy of a letter dated June 8, 1956, addressed to M. L. King, 309 South Jackson Street, Montgomery, Alabama, signed "District #14, AFVWC." Coleman stated he believes this means Air Force White Men's Committee. The letter refers to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as the Negroes' Advancement Association for the Communist Party. It states "We are organizing clubs and chapters throughout the armed forces. We are going to stand up and be counted as a 'white man.'" The letter continued that the NAACP has suggested that the Government employ Federal troops in order that the white people must submit to all orders coming from the NAACP. However, the letter pointed out that "We, the White Military Men, are the Federal troops you are speaking about."

COMM - FBI  
JUL 2 - 1956  
MAILED 20

The letter indicated chapters have been formed at the following Army and Air Force installations:

- Fort Benning, Georgia
- Robins Air Force Base, Georgia
- Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

cc - Assistant Attorney General  
William B. Tompkins (sent by Form 0-6, same date)

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

JUL 2 1956  
7C

Handwritten initials and signatures: RB, AP, and others.

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

**Fort Rucker, Alabama  
Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi  
Craig Air Force Base, Alabama  
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida**

*b7c  
Rk  
AFOSI*  
Coleman stated he did not know the extent of dissemination of this information to the various Armed Forces. He advised the letter was found by Major L. O. Amundson on June 5, 1956, on the front lawn of his home, [REDACTED]

Coleman stated that the Office of Special Investigations is instituting an inquiry to determine the source of this letter.

M. L. King, according to press reports, is one of the leaders of the Montgomery Improvement Association, which organization is sponsoring the boycott of city buses in Montgomery, Alabama.

The above is being furnished for your information.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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

DATE: 7/3/56

J FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/31/83 BY SP3 CLK/jcl

As of additional interest to the Bureau, there are transmitted herewith two copies of the following newspaper item appearing in the Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 6/30/56:

"CITY BUSES TO STOP RUNNING TONIGHT."

- 2 - Bureau (Encl. 2) (100-135 Sub 61)
- 1 - Mobile (100-1361)

7C  
ENCLOSURE

100-135-10  
R/S  
7-10-56

RECORDED - 98  
JUL 10 1956  
7C  
INT

52 JUL 16 1956

EXP. PROC.

# City Buses To Stop Running Tonight

## Negroes Reject Offer

Tallahassee's city bus system is preparing to stop operations indefinitely tonight after leaders of a crippling Negro boycott rejected a proposal that would have given them integration on all but one seat for predominantly colored routes.

About 250 Negroes in a meeting last night turned down the City Commission's final proposal and voted to try to set up their own transportation system if the bus company stopped operating.

Stetson Coleman, president of Cities Transit, Inc., said there'll "be nothing to boycott" in the morning because his buses will stop running tonight.

However, he said, he will keep his firm's 22 employes on the payroll until "the people of Tallahassee decide to take the city back over from Messrs. Steele, Hollins, Lindsey and Brooks" (four leaders of the boycott movement).

### 'I'M AMAZED'

"I'm amazed that the Negroes have let those people lead them into a position that certainly hasn't helped them or this community."

The bus company president said "we've had more than 50 calls from Negroes in the last few days saying they'd like to ride the buses, but are scared to. We have no names and we can't prove it, but we strongly suspect there has been real intimidation."

Negro boycott leaders have insisted there has been no attempt to intimidate members of their race to observe the boycott that started a month ago when two Florida A. and M. University women students were arrested for insisting on sitting beside a white woman on the last vacant seat in a bus.

Charges against them were (Continued on Page 6, Col 3)

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JUNE 30, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61  
Mofile 100-1361

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/3/83 BY *Ajzile/jal*

ENCLOSURE

# Buses To Stop Running Tonight

From Page 1

dismissed, but the boycott turned into a firm demand for complete abolishment of segregated bus seating.

At the meeting last night, Rev. C. K. Steele, president of the city's Negro Inter Civic Council, told some 250 persons that the negro community of 15,000—about one third of the city's population—has three choices:

"1. Go back to the buses as they had come off and accept existing conditions.

## 'DO IT AGAIN'

"2. Tell them to please not move the buses and we will use them in civil disobedience—sit where you want to sit and let them arrest you, and do it over again.

"3. Let them move and organize and develop our own transportation."

The group voted to follow No. 3.

In an effort to reach a compromise, the City had offered to amend the bus company franchise permitting it to employ Negro drivers on predominantly Negro lines and permitting open seating on predominantly Negro lines except for a three-passenger seat in front reserved for white patrons.

The Inter Civic Council countered with a demand that Negro drivers be employed within 30 days and the seating controversy be decided by a committee of 12 white members sitting with 12

Negroes selected by the civic council.

Steele said the City turned this down and withdrew its compromise offer.

No details were announced for the planned Negro transportation system. The council's executive committee promised to submit a specific plan to a mass meeting Sunday night.

A suggestion was made from the floor that a franchise be sought for a profit-making jitney system. An executive committee member, Rev. DuPont, said six station wagons, 12 drivers, a secretary and two men to act as dispatchers, would provide an adequate transit system for the city's 15,000 Negroes.

Steele cautioned against ill-feeling and bitterness if the bus company suspends service.

"The white people have been nice to us," he said. "They have been courteous, friendly and many have been sympathetic. The only trouble we have had has been with bus drivers, policemen and city officials."

City Commissioner W. T. Mayo, who has been the Commission spokesman during the boycott, said today:

"I feel that we have done everything we know how to do to approach the problem with ideas that would be acceptable to the white population of Tallahassee as well as the colored, which certainly at this time do not include integration."

"We were perfectly willing to correct any shortcomings such as acts of discourtesy on the part of some drivers.

"We were willing to cooperate with them in urging the bus company to furnish colored drivers

on predominantly colored runs within a reasonable time, and we were willing to interpret the 'first come first served' rule as advanced by them so that no person would have been required to give up his seat to a member of the other race in the future."

Asked whether the Commission had given thought to relief for the white people who depend on the buses, Mayo said he thought that relief would depend on whether enough white people requested the bus company to return "some sort of limited service" and promised to give it adequate support.

Mayo said he wouldn't have "the faintest idea" whether an application from the Inter Civic Council for some kind of transportation franchise, would be granted or denied.

The bus company owner said he had been "particularly impressed with the willingness of the City Commission and other white leaders to try to work out a compromise, and with 'how far they were willing to go.'"

However, he said, the Negro leaders "proved they didn't want the boycott settled. They were determined to keep the boycott going.

"They've made a national incident out of this to the embarrassment of Tallahassee, and they're boasting about the contributions they are getting from outside the city," Coleman said. 'PUT UP JOB'

"We're convinced it was a put-up job. There had been a great many incidents prior to this, and this was just an excuse. We feel if it hadn't been this time, it would have been another. The City Commissioners advised us they had been told it was coming."

He said he felt it was "a crime" that Tallahassee Negroes had followed the leadership of relative newcomers "who will no doubt move along someplace else" and leave more moderate, old-time Negro residents "holding the bag."

"When a group decides to take the law into its own hands and use an unAmerican weapon like the boycott, it seems best to us to remove the service until the people—particularly the Negro people—decide whether they want to follow that method," Coleman said.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

7/19

TO : The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: July 6, 1956.

FROM : Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

WO:MWH:sbh

144-2-152

SUBJECT: Racial Situation,  
Montgomery, Alabama  
Civil Rights

RACON - MOBILE

Reference is made to your memorandum of June 29, 1956 with the report of Special Agent [redacted] relative to the investigation concerning the death of T. P. Sellers.

7C

No further investigation of the matter is desired.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/30/83 BY [signature]

O-25  
MIO-Info  
7-18-56  
LSC

7C  
JUL 9 1956  
5 ew

INDEXED - 24

RECORDED - 24

EX-109

FILE  
EVE

1-61-186  
JUL 8 1956

JUL 19 1956

[Handwritten signature]

[redacted] (Warren)

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

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:  
  100-135-61-187  

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

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

Director, FBI

7/6/56

RACIAL SITUATION  
STATE OF ALABAMA

AD  
[REDACTED]

7C  
This information was orally furnished by SA [REDACTED] on 7/3/56 to the following at Fort Rucker, Alabama, in view of information that the Negro mentioned is a soldier and possibly from there:

[REDACTED] 92nd KP Detachment (CI)

[REDACTED], 111th CIC.

In addition, a separate communication has been directed to G-2 confirming this information in writing.

cc Liaison Section  
cc Mr. [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

7C

DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3 dcl/gcl

100-135-61

Date: July 12, 1956

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

*del*

RECORDED - 24

Attention: Chief, Security Division

EX-109

From:

John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: RACIAL SITUATION  
STATE OF ALABAMA

There is being furnished you herewith one  
Photostat of a memorandum from the Mobile Office of  
this Bureau dated July 6, 1956, which is self-explanatory.

Any additional information received relative  
to this matter will be furnished you promptly.

Enclosure

2cc SAC, Mobile (100-1342)

ATTENTION SAC, MOBILE:

You are instructed to initiate immediately an  
investigation to determine identities of members of the  
Ku Klux Klan group referred to in your letter dated  
July 6, 1956, captioned as above. The results of this  
investigation should be promptly furnished the Bureau.

Appropriate local Army authorities should be  
furnished any additional pertinent information received  
by you relative to this matter.

cc Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

(W/Enclosure)  
(BY Form 0-6, same date)

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

*dlj*  
(8)

*7/10 1 10 20 20*

COMM - FBI  
JUL 12 1956  
MAILED 20

RECEIVED  
FBI

*7/13/56*  
*W. F. Tompkins*  
*cc*

60 JUL 19 1956

From: ip  
FD- (3-54) Date 7/3/56

To:  Director BUFILE # 100-31159  
Att. Internal Security Section  
 SAC Title  
 ASAC "THE PITTSBURGH COURIER"  
 Supv.  
 Agent Misc. Info. Concerning  
 SE  
 CC  
 Steno  
 Clerk

**ACTION DESIRED**

- Reassign to
- Initial & return
- Open Case
- Search & return
- Expedite
- Send Serials
- Recharge serials
- Correct
- Prepare tickler
- Call me
- Submit report by
- Return serials
- See me
- Acknowledge
- Type
- Submit new charge-out
- Bring file
- File
- Leads need attention
- Delinquent
- Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

Forwarded herewith are two copies of articles appearing in the 6/23/56 issue of captioned publication, New York Edition, which may be of interest to the Bureau. No pertinent articles were noted in the 6/16/56 issue.

*J* ENCLOSURE  
EX-120

INDEXED - 14  
~~INDEXED - 14~~  
100-31159-187  
NOT RECORDED  
21 JUL 13 1956  
SAC *Blum*  
Office Pittsburgh  
INT/SEC

63 JUL 23 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3clt/ed

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

# Desegregation

(Courier Press Service)

Jim crow is still the South's leading pitcher, but the grizzled old vet is being rocked by some solid hits here and there by the opposing team, despite the fact that segregation's ace hurler still manages to slip over a fast one here and there.

In the South's race relations "serious," the latest play-by-play is as follows:

1. Barbara Hunt, stenog in the Courier's Atlanta office, went with two women and a man to the Georgia State College of Business Administration and saw the trio present applications which were turned down because they did not carry the "endorsement" of two of the school's alumni.
2. Talbot County, Md., will admit ten Negroes to formerly all-white schools next fall.
3. After the Rev. Joseph Fichter, SJ, a Roman Catholic priest, and the Commission on Human Rights of the Catholic Committee of the South called the white citizens council "un-American" and "subversive," the council asked the FBI to probe both the priest and his "secret organization."
4. Five bills aimed at preserv-

- ing white supremacy in Louisiana have passed the State Legislature and are now awaiting Governor Earl K. Long's signature.
5. The NAACP in Louisiana has appealed a State Court ruling which outlawed its operations under a 1924 law which had been originally aimed at the Ku Klux Klan.
6. Negro leaders of Texas, Tex., are demanding that heretofore "white" recreation facilities be thrown open to every one on the grounds that Negro citizens pay their taxes, but have no facilities.
7. Racial integration went into effect in Louisville schools without incident as a dozen Negro pupils began classes at the DuPont Manual High School.
8. Democratic Congressman Carl Vinson of Georgia has presented a bill in Congress which would wipe out the high court's anti-segregation decrees.

-A1106

6-23-56

*file 100-135-61*

Pittsburgh, Pa.

PRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 SUN-TELEGRAPH \_\_\_\_\_  
 POST-GAZETTE \_\_\_\_\_  
 COURIER

Date 6/23/56  
 Edition New York  
 Page 2  
 Column 1-2  
 Author of Article \_\_\_\_\_

Editor (on editorials) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title of Case \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Character \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Case \_\_\_\_\_

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 DATE 3/30/82 BY sp3cl/jcl

ENCLOSURE  
 100-135-61-154

9. After some teenage mobsters found out that the "Cuban" GI bowling with friends in an East Point, Ga., alley, was actually an "American" Negro, 100 folks gathered and military police had to accompany the "ex-Cuban" and six white companions back to the Atlanta airport.

10. Governor Thomas B. Stanley plans to call the Virginia State Legislature into special session to deal specifically with the issue of integration.

11. Ogden College of Bowling Green, Ky., plans to reopen its doors to "white students" only, because the will of the school's founder provided that the college be made available for "native-born white Americans."

12. Federal Judge Skelly Wright of the U. S. District Court in New Orleans has postponed hearing two school suits in which Negroes are seeking to enter East Baton Rouge schools.

13. Four Negroes took a swim in the municipal pool at Muncie, Ind., and after a large group of whites appeared and began jeering the Negroes, the pool was closed.

14. The House Education Committee has voted 17-8 not to give Federal aid to any schools which need more facilities to carry out integration plans.

15. Congressman Adam Powell's anti-segregation rider seems assured of passage and it might take more than a filibuster to stop it because Mr. Powell has secured the backing of 202 Republicans.

16. Roman Catholic elementary schools in three Maryland counties are planning to integrate their first two grades in the fall.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

# Tallahassee Bus Co. Is Folding!

## Boycott Threats Hit Other Cities

(Courier Press Service)

Dixie's public transportation systems, caught in the tentacles of the boycott, are in "danger" of being squeezed into submission to integration.

Florida Negroes, inspired by Alabama brethren in Montgomery, continued to apply pressure in Tallahassee, and were eyeing prospective "victims" in Miami and St. Petersburg. Atlanta and Memphis were also seen as possible targets for Pittsburgh, Pa. the spreading boycott movement.

Latest developments on the boycott:

1. July 1 has been set as a deadline by the Cities Transit Company of Tallahassee, Fla., for settlement of the boycott "problem." If the boycott has not been settled by that date, the company says it intends to go out of business.

Pittsburgh

PRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 SUN-TELEGRAPH \_\_\_\_\_  
 POST-GAZETTE \_\_\_\_\_  
 COURIER \_\_\_\_\_

Date 6/23/56  
 Edition New York  
 Page 2  
 Column 5  
 Author of Article \_\_\_\_\_

Editor (on editorials) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title of Case \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Character \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Case \_\_\_\_\_

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3cl/ycl

*Handwritten notes:*  
 10-1-56  
 10-1-56  
 10-1-56

**10**

ENCLOSURE

10-1-56-11-1-58

2. Some Miami Negro leaders say they are afraid to call a boycott because it might not prove as "effective" as the one in Tallahassee.

3. Montgomery boycott leaders had a mild rhubarb over funds when the Rev. U. J. Fields quit as secretary of the Montgomery Improvement Association charging misappropriation of funds but his claims were denied by Dr. Moses Jones who termed the charges "deeply regrettable." The MIA announced that it plans to iron out the dispute in private, but will keep a united front on the boycott issue.

4. In St. Petersburg, Fla., Negro leaders have called upon City Council to meet with them in an effort to prevent bus boycott or "similar incidents." The Rev. Enoch D. Davis of the Second Bethel Baptist Church said, "We are hopeful that St. Petersburg can assume a position of leadership."

5. Tallahassee's City Commission has granted the bus company permission to raise its fares from 10 to 15 cents in an effort

to offset losses sustained through the boycott.

6. The Rev. C. K. Steele, president of the council sponsoring the Tallahassee boycott, has to leave town when he wants to visit his wife. She left the town because of threatening phone calls.

7. Sidney Rodney took a seat in the white section of a New Orleans bus and was charged with refusing to obey segregation laws and disturbing the peace. But, when Rodney turned up in court with Atty. A. P. Tureaud as counsel, the segregation and disturbing the peace charges were dismissed. Instead, he is being charged with being loud and boisterous.

8. The Montgomery Improvement Association has been incorporated as a non-profit organization to "improve living conditions in the community."

9. The Rev. Theodore Gibson, Miami NAACP chairman, asserts, "If they don't come across, we will call a boycott or go to the courts or both . . . if we call a boycott, it will be because we feel we can get quicker relief that way."

10. The Transport Union Workers of America's Executive Council, AFL-CIO, has called upon the bus drivers "of Montgomery, Ala., and any other city or town where a boycott or a campaign of passive resistance to the segregation edicts is being conducted to refuse to carry out bus owners' policies of segregation or discrimination."

11. Following the effects of the boycott in Montgomery, 10,000 whites of that Alabama town have joined the White Citizens Council.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 7/13/56

✓ FROM : SAC, MOBILE (100-0)

7, SUBJECT: RECON; FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

The following information was furnished by [redacted] Federal Correctional Institution, Tallahassee, Florida on July 5, 1956:

7c

[redacted] advised that on 7/3/56, he posted a notice on various bulletin boards throughout the institution informing the prison population that an integration plan for the various cellhouses and dormitories was being put into effect as of that date. He said a similar plan integrating seating in the dining halls on a weekend and holiday basis had been in operation at FCI for almost a year, without incident.

Continuing, [redacted] stated at about 8:00 a.m. on 7/3/56, just subsequent to the posting of above notice, a group of Negro inmates entered the dining hall and each seated himself at a different table throughout the hall, adding that when the white inmates came into the hall for breakfast, none sat at a table occupied by a Negro.

[redacted] further advised that at the noon meal served that date from approximately 10:30 to 12:00 noon, the same group of Negro inmates entered the dining hall and where ever they saw a table of white inmates with a seat or two left, they sat down. He said that at each table this occurred, all white inmates at that table would get up and leave the dining hall, many of them leaving unfinished portions.

[redacted] stated further that just following the noon meal, he singled out the group of Negroes responsible for the above and discussed the matter, whereupon they all agreed that the integrated seating plan in the dining hall was "in effect being abused by this group".

[redacted] went on to state that at 3:30 that same date, when the institution dining hall opened for feeding, almost the entire white population refrained from eating and

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/83 BY sp3cl/ghl

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- 2 - Bureau
- 1 - Mobile (100-0)
- 1 - Acl
- (3)

RECORDED - 14

031-73

25 JUL 16 1956

100-155-11-189

7c

DIRECTOR, FBI

7/13/56

RE: RECON; FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

7/20/56  
was

refused to go into the dining hall. He said the group of Negroes numbered about 12, and that although there were several arguments between the white and ~~colored~~ inmates, there were no fights and no violence of any sort associated with the above incidents.

7c

██████████ stated the above situation was observed closely the following day and no repetition noted. He stated that although no violation over which the FBI had jurisdiction had occurred, he was making this information available in the event the above situation should lead to a more serious situation possibly involving violations over which the FBI has jurisdiction. He said the above situation on 7/3/56 received no local publicity in Tallahassee, and that although the various arguments over seating in the dining hall and the general dormitory integration plan necessitated segregating approximately 17 inmates, both white and ~~colored~~, from the general prison population for several days, he believed the above situation "had apparently remedied itself, temporarily at least".

Inasmuch as no violation in this matter is apparent, no further investigation is being conducted by the Mobile Division.

cc [redacted]  
7C

Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

July 23, 1956

Director, FBI

RACIAL SITUATION  
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

There is being furnished you herewith for your information a copy of a memorandum from the Mobile Office of this Bureau containing information furnished by [redacted] Federal Correctional Institution, Tallahassee, Florida, on July 5, 1956.

7C

Any additional pertinent information received relative to this matter will be furnished you promptly.

Enclosure

RECORDED - 28 100-135-61-189

EX-120

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3 dcl/gcl

JUL 25 1956

FBI - MOBILE

7C

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

[redacted] dlj

(4)

106

71 JUL 25 1956

COMM - FBI  
JUL 23 1956  
MAILED 31

JUL 23 1956

JUL 25 1956

60

[Handwritten initials]

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-135 Sub 61)      DATE: 7/12/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3 cde/gcl

As of further interest to the Bureau re this matter,  
enclosed herewith are two copies of an item appearing in  
the Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 7/9/56,  
captioned "FULL INTEGRATION AGAIN DEMANDED."

- 2 - Bureau (100-135 Sub 61) (Encl. 2)
- 1 - Mobile (100-1361)

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(3)

7c

*cc per Mr. Tompkins  
7-18-56*

RECORDED - 6

190  
JUL 16 1956

7c 63 JUL 18 1956

*TR*

# Full Infegration Again Demanded

By DON MEIKLEJOHN  
Democrat Staff Writer

Negroes stuck to full integration demands at a meeting of the Negro Inter Civic Council last night in rejecting key points in a new City proposal to settle the bus situation.

The rejection apparently closed the door on a negotiated settlement between the Negro group and the City Commission.

Commissioner W. T. Mayo, who has acted as the Commission spokesman during the negotiations said, "If they are not willing to accept the situation as it exists in Tallahassee—something we have tried our best to explain to them and believed they understood — and settle for something less than full integration, the situation is fairly hopeless because the City Commission will not change the bus franchise to include full integration."

"We have leaned over backwards and explored every possibility that might alleviate some of their complaints short of full integration. The people of Tallahassee don't want integration and they won't have it."

**500 ATTEND MEETING**  
About 500 Negroes attended the meeting, which was conducted by the Rev. K. S. Dupont,

vice-president of the Negro Inter Civic Council in the absence of the Rev. C. K. Steele, president. Steele is expected back for the meeting Wednesday night, and sent a telegram which was read to the meeting.

The City proposal, which Mayo said was put forward with the approval of three members of the five man Commission, had four points, two of which were accepted by the Negroes.

The main point—bus seating—was the same proposal as previously made by the Commission—open seating on predominately Negro lines except for a three passenger seat in front, which was to be reserved for whites until other seats were full. When other seats were full, the seat would go to the first race sitting in it and the other race would have to stand. This was unanimously rejected by persons at the meeting last night.

Other points were: "Courtesy of bus drivers to all passengers will be guaranteed through stipulation of the franchise and by company policy." This was accepted.

(2) Negro bus drivers on predominantly Negro routes to be hired not later than 60 days. Accepted.

(3) Interracial Committee to be selected with six white members and six Negro members.

**REJECTED**  
was rejected by a vote of the group on the basis of selection of the committee. The Interracial Committee choose and the committee appointed are presented (see Col. 3)

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61  
Mofile 100-1361

From: Tallahassee "Democrat"  
7/9/56

GDM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3cl/scl

Monday  
7:30, 9:30  
APR 11, 1956  
are presented  
(see Col. 3)

From Page 1

## Full Integration Again Asked

to the group by the Rev. David H. Brooks. Brooks, who is not an official member of the Inter-Civic Council executive committee, has been assisting in the negotiations at the request of the Rev. Steele.

After a general discussion which lasted about three hours, the Rev. Brooks explained his position on the proposal. He said he favored the ultimate objectives of the group, but differed on the procedure.

"I don't believe a negative boycott without legal basis is going to get us very far. We're just wasting time charging the City Commission with not granting us integration."

He added that the only outcome of the boycott would be increasing tensions in the community.

He said two approaches could be used by the group.

(1) Continue the protests although it is without legal basis in that there was no case to take to court.

(2) Find some "common basis" for pressing the demands and take it to the "highest court in the land if necessary."

The meeting was carried out in a business session mood last night, contrasting with previous meetings in which emotionalism played a large part.

Most of the three hour meeting included discussions by persons attending the meeting, which was concluded by statements of position by members of the Inter-Civic Council executive committee.

There were cries that it was the same proposal already rejected by the Negroes several times since their boycott started in May as a protest against segregated seating. The boycott since has resulted in suspension of bus service here.

"We've taken our stand on integration on the buses and that is where we stand," said one woman. "Is it necessary that we vote it down again?"

"What we want here is freedom of our spirits," declared another voice from the crowd. "This thing is greater than a mere seat on a bus. Let's forget about the buses and provide our own transportation."

Dr. Samuel Gandy, chaplain of Dillard University of New Orleans, told the meeting Negroes there are trying to work out something "to make it possible for us to join hands with the people here and in Montgomery."

Another Negro boycott protesting segregated bus seating has been in progress in Montgomery, Ala., for several months.

Members of the Commission met this morning to get a report on the action last night, but no formal action was taken, Mayo said.

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
Tallahassee, Fla.  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61  
Mofile 100-1361

From: Tallahassee "Democrat"  
7/9/56

GDM

2

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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

DATE: 7/16/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361)

SUBJECT: Re: [Redacted]  
RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

For the information of the Bureau, there are enclosed herewith two copies each of the following newspaper items:

1. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Fla., 7/12/56, captioned "COMMISSIONERS WASH HANDS OF BUS BOYCOTT NEGOTIATIONS."
2. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 7/12/56, captioned "THE BUS RIDING CAMPAIGN."

**ENCLOSURE**

- 2 - Bureau (Encl. 4) (100-135 Sub 61)
- 1 - Mobile (100-1361)
- 1 - [Redacted]

7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/26/83 BY sp3cle/gcl

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(2)  
100-135-61-191  
7-19-56  
[Redacted]

RECORDED - 67  
EX-122  
INDEXED - 67

100-135-61-191  
90  
JUL 18 1956

63 JUL 30 1956

[Redacted]  
7C

# 4 — Tallahassee Democrat

Thursday, July 12, 1956

## The Bus Riding Campaign

We think the movement by the Chamber of Commerce and Junior Chamber of Commerce to get the buses rolling here with an appeal for riders is for the best interests of Tallahassee.

We hope it succeeds, because Tallahassee needs bus service. It needs it to supply transportation for people who have no other economical and convenient means. It needs it to serve our institutions and businesses. It needs it as a factor in its effort to obtain new residents and new commercial enterprises.

Leaders of the campaign to promote more bus riding are acting wisely and properly in trying to keep the racial aspects out of the foreground.

Although the situation unquestionably is the result of the Negro boycott, the white civic leaders can with complete justification carry out their campaign on the basis that it is good business for people to ride the bus because of economy, convenience and relief of the downtown parking and traffic situation.

If the bus company will participate actively in the promotion, and routes and schedules can be worked out which will make the buses more available and more useful to more residents, we may be able to develop bus operations and riding habits which will make us in the future look back on this period with some satisfaction instead of with a bad taste in our mouths.

We hope and believe this mass movement by the civic leaders will not be allowed to degenerate into an out-and-out retaliatory movement against the Negro movement which provoked it. That isn't necessary. It could be dangerous.

And when the buses go back on the streets, we think City officials out of re-

gard for fairness and public safety must use every legal power to assure that the Negro car pool is operated in accordance with rules which are laid down for franchised public transportation.

Drivers of the pooled Negro cars are receiving money for their work and their vehicles. The only difference between what they get and the fares collected by cabs and buses is that it comes indirectly while the fare is paid directly. We agree with the Junior Chamber of Commerce that this should be considered operation of cars for hire.

These operators should be required to meet the same standards for equipment safety, licensing, insurance and other operations as franchised buses and taxicabs.

If they aren't, the City will be permitting unfair and discriminatory competition to regulated business. It will be permitting risks of accidents without adequate insurance protection for the public.

It will be closing its eyes to the danger of enmity between licensed operators trying to make a living out of fares and zealous unregulated drivers carrying their potential customers without direct charge. The steering wheel of a powerful vehicle on a crowded street is too perilous a weapon to leave in the hands of people bearing that enmity.

We hope the campaign to ride the buses succeeds. We hope people of both races will support it.

There must be no intimidation or harassment on either side. We have been proud of the restraint exercised by people of both races in this situation so far. We should take every precaution against loosening that restraint.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/20/83 BY sp3clb/ya

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
JOHN M. TAPERS, EDITOR  
JULY 12, 1956

Re: RACIAL  
SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Mofile 100-1361  
Bufile 100-135  
Sub 61

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-191

# Commissioners Wash Hands Of Bus Boycott Negotiations

By MIKE BEAUDOIN  
Democrat City Editor

Tallahassee City Commissioners agreed today they will make no further effort to negotiate a settlement of the bus boycott with Negro leaders "under any circumstances."

Only three of the five commissioners were present for the meeting, but the other two—who had been dealing directly with the boycott leaders—previously said they would make no further move.

Mayor Fred Winterle said he had found the majority of the leaders of the boycott were Florida A. and M. University professors and their wives and he

hinted that a formal protest would be made to the State Board of Control.

The Commission also agreed to give "full police protection"—even if it means hiring more policemen—to anyone who wants to ride the bus.

Paul Skelton, president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, met with the Commission today and said he felt "further negotiations with the present Negro leaders is useless."

He said it is "unfortunate a few citizens, most of whom own their own cars, are depriving the majority of the Negro people of bus transportation."

Before the commissioners

met, Chamber of Commerce Manager Thomas M. Brownlee reported "encouraging" progress in the campaign by white civic leaders to get the buses running with appeals to the public to ride the buses on revised routes and schedules.

The Commission said Negroes were welcome to ride the buses when service resumed but they made it clear that it would have to be under terms of the original contract. That is, Negroes would seat from the rear to the front, on all buses.

Mayor Winterle said the two commissioners not present today—W. T. Mayo and John Humphress—had already agreed to quit trying to negotiate with the Negro leaders.

The three Commissioners present today said they would not negotiate with the Negroes now even if they changed their leadership and asked for a compromise.

Commissioner H. C. Summitt, in a statement endorsed by Winterle and Commissioner Joe Cordell, said:

"I won't make another move to negotiate with them (the Negroes). It has been proven to me that all they want is integration and they'll never get it as long as I'm on the City Commission."

#### NO FRANCHISE

Summitt said anyone who wants to ride the buses when service is resumed will get adequate police protection. He said he knew that many Negroes, who didn't want to follow the present leadership and who wanted to continue riding the buses had been threatened by other Negroes. Leaders of the Negro Inter Civic Council have denied this.

The Commission also made another point clear: The Negroes will not be given a franchise to operate any kind of transportation system.

The Negroes are making plans to buy station wagon, or buses and start their own transportation system. City Mgr. Arvah Hopkins also said the police would arrest anyone violating City traffic regulations in picking up or discharging.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
JULY 12, 1956

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Mofile 100-1361  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3ck/gcl

ENCLOSURE 100-135-111

# Commissioners Quit

From Page 1

ing passengers.

Mayor Winterle criticized the A. and M. faculty members for what he called their "leadership in the boycott." He said "only a few of those professors own property in Tallahassee and most of them are renting state-owned apartments."

Winterle then asked the other commissioners if he should tell reporters present about the commission's plan to go before the State Board of Control. Other commissioners said "not at this time."

Winterle refused to elaborate later when questioned but it was obvious that the Commission plans to go before the board with relation to the part A. and M. professors are allegedly playing in the boycott.

M. G. Miles, director of student activities at A. and M., was the main speaker at last night's meeting of the Inter Civic Council. A reported move to get reconsideration of the City Commission's compromise bus offer was not even mentioned at last night's meeting.

During this morning's special meeting, the three commissioners angrily denounced the present leadership of the Inter Civic Council. Summitt mentioned the threatened boycott of Tallahassee merchants by the Negroes and said "we can do some boycotting too, if they start anything like that."

He added: "If a few of the leaders of the Council would leave town it would be a Godsend. We've always been able to get along with the old leaders. We wouldn't have had all this trouble if it had not been for the newcomers who call themselves leaders."

"This thing has set our racial relations back four or five years," Summitt added. Winterle replied "it's closer to ten years than five."

By refusing to negotiate further, the Commissioners said they mean any Negro riding the bus now will have to ride under terms of the original, present bus franchise. This requires seating from the rear to the front. The compromise offer to let Negroes sit anywhere they wanted on some lines is no longer pending and will not be offered again, the Commis-

was kicked off yesterday with an appearance of Dr. Judd Chapman, one of the members of a six-man steering committee, who appeared before the Rotary Club.

Mimeographed forms were passed out to members asking their suggestions on routes, schedules and promotion of the campaign.

Charles L. Carter, bus company manager, said the bus company will cooperate with the campaign "100 per cent" and put Tallahassee buses back on the streets when the preliminary planning has been completed.

Routes will be "tailored" to the needs of persons who indicate they are interested in riding the buses.

Brownlee said a definite date for the buses to go back into service has not been set, but indicated it would be soon—possibly next week, depending on how long it takes to process suggestions and make route and schedule plans.

tion said.

The Commissioners agreed they would always insist on courtesy to all patrons, however.

Meanwhile Chamber of Commerce Mgr. Tom Brownlee reported today that response to the "ride the bus" campaign had been "encouraging."

The "ride the bus" campaign

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61  
Mofile 100-1361

From: Tallahassee "Democrat"  
7/12/56

GDM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED,  
DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3cle/gcl

ENCLOSURE 100-135-61-171

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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

DATE: 7/23/56

INDEXED-53

FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361, 100-365)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

CRACON - MOBILE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/30/83 BY SP3 CLK/gd

For the information of the Bureau, [redacted] contacted SA [redacted] on 7/20/56 at the Tallahassee Resident Agency office and furnished the following information:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] have visited Montgomery, Alabama, where they obtained pertinent facts regarding the bus boycott situation there, in an attempt to ascertain what persons and groups are promoting the bus boycotts at Montgomery and Tallahassee. He said that his investigation has failed to indicate that the bus boycotts at Montgomery and Tallahassee are "Communist inspired," however, he has ascertained that one [redacted] whom [redacted] described as "an Alabama Communist leader," has been in Montgomery and Tallahassee during recent weeks.

[redacted]

[redacted] said he suspected that some of the Negro leaders of the bus boycott at Tallahassee might possibly hold membership in some subversive organizations, however, he was unable to furnish any specific information regarding his belief in this regard.

[redacted]

- 2 - Bureau (100-20396) (Encl. 4) ENCLOSURE
- 2 - Atlanta (100-559)
- 2 - Mobile (1 - 100-1361, 1 - 100-365)

100-135-61

7C

63 AUG 10 1956  
100-135-61-56  
7-26-56

RECORDED-53  
INDEXED-53

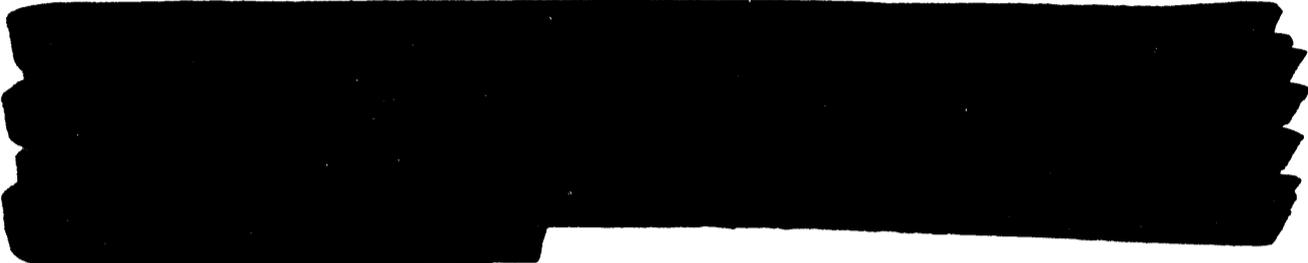
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[redacted]

Director, FBI

7/23/56

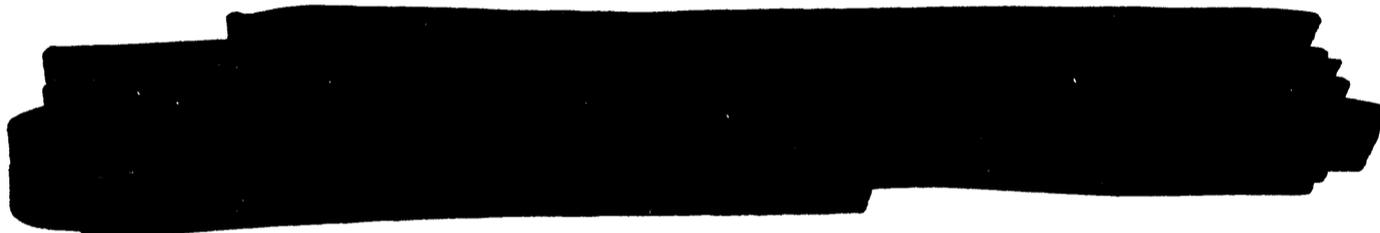
Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

PC  
D  


For the information of the Bureau, there are transmitted herewith two copies each of the following newspaper items:

1. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 7/19/56, captioned "BUSES RESUME AUG. 2; NEGRO CAR POOL IS HIT."
2. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 7/18/56, captioned "NEGRO CAR POOL CRACKDOWN DUE."

With reference to the first article, the Bureau will note that in the penultimate paragraph it is stated, "At last night's meeting of the council, attorney LINDSEY reported he had asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Chicago police department to look into reports that efforts were being made to embarrass him with the Florida Supreme Court because of his work with the council."



7C

# Buses Resume

Aug. 2,

# Negro Car Pool

# Is Hit

## Legal Steps Due To Halt Boycott

RE: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

From The Tallahassee Democrat  
Tallahassee, Fla.  
7/19/56

JIX:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/30/83 BY SP3clj/cl

WFILE 100-135 Sub 61  
WFILE 100-1361

*File sub 1  
100-135 sub 61  
AK  
3/30/83*

*100-135-61-14*

Announcement that city buses will start running again in Tallahassee Aug. 2 was made today as legal moves to cripple the Negro boycott and its car pool operation came on three fronts.

The Cities Transit Co., manager and a Chamber of Commerce committee jointly announced that service will be resumed Aug. 2 with smaller buses running new schedules on new routes with the impetus of patronage they hope will come from the "ride-the-bus campaign."

Police Chief Frank Stoutamire said his officers were out again gathering information on drivers, riders and destinations of the boycotters' car pool for use in drafting warrants tax for arresting drivers who don't comply with "for-hire" car regulations in line with a City Commission interpretation of law.

#### NO ARRESTS YET

Stoutamire said he had made no arrests and ordered none, and all arrests will be made on the basis of prepared warrants.

Members of the Negro Inter Civic Council which spearheads the boycott and operates the car pool were told last night by

their attorney, Theris Lindsey, that "as long as you're driving your own car, buying your own gas and picking up your friends and neighbors I don't know of any law you're violating."

Rev. C. K. Steele, president of the organization, added: "If they have found a law to arrest us for that, then we'll test the law." He promised drivers "the best legal talent money can buy."

City Atty. James Messer has advised the Commission that operation of a car pool in which drivers receive compensation out of a donated fund constitutes operating cars for hire and makes the drivers subject to laws requiring special license tags, drivers' licenses, insurance coverage and other regulations.

To resolve any doubt of the validity of that interpretation, State Rep. J. Kenneth Ballinger said today he will ask the Legislature next week to write it specifically into the law.

#### ANTI-BOYCOTT BILL

In Palatka, Rep. James M. Beck announced he will introduce a bill to make it unlawful for any State employe to take part in an organized boycott. Some members of the Florida A. and M. University faculty have been active in the boycott movement here.

Beck said he will ask Gov. Collins to include his recommendation in the call for the special session, and that if the Governor doesn't cite such a measure as a matter for emergency consideration he will seek the two-thirds vote necessary to bring it up anyway.

Ballinger's bill would require any "person or association" to get a certificate of operation as a common carrier from the Florida Railroad Commission or the U. S. Interstate Commerce Commission or have a city franchise before offering, arranging or providing transportation for any compensation.

It would define "compensation" as "a return in money or in property or in anything of value for services in transporting persons by motor vehicles over public highways and municipal streets, whether paid, received or realized, directly or indirectly."

It would make it unlawful for any organization "which has for its purpose the diverting of patronage from existing motor carriers of passengers, to provide or advertise the providing of free transportation" without the official permit.

Any free transportation author-  
(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

From Page 1

## Buses Resume August 2

"consist of regular recurring transportation" under Railroad Commission rules and be subject to state mileage taxes which are paid by all bus and truck companies.

Penalties for violation would range from \$250 and 90 days in jail for the first offense to \$1,000 fine and a year in prison for the third conviction.

Ballinger's bill would exempt from the regulation operations in which there is no direct or indirect compensation in hauling farm workers to and from their jobs, transportation of bona fide students between their institutions and homes, car-owning students sharing rides with other students, and transportation within state and national parks.

Also exempt would be "transportation of persons by church organizations or religious organizations when such persons are be-

ing transported to points and places of recreation when those are supported by such church or religious organizations and when such transportation is provided in vehicles owned by such church or religious organization."

"The bill as now drawn is designed to help other cities protect themselves against the planned and blatant ignoring of regulatory authority which has featured the leadership of the bus boycott in Tallahassee," Ballinger said.

"These leaders have been laying the foundation for two years or more," he said. "They demonstrated that they can and would weld the Negro population of Leon County into an effective minority voting bloc.

### OPENED BOYCOTT

"Such leaders, imported for these purposes, then opened the bus boycott. They have accompanied this with threats of reprisals against local public officials who resist their plans.

"It is high time, therefore, that our officials be given all the legal backing they need to protect the public of all races from the present program of legal evasion."

Leaders of the Negro Inter Civic Council denied there had been any threats of reprisals.

At last night's meeting of the council, attorney Lindsey reported he had asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Chicago police department to look into reports that efforts were being made to embarrass him with the Florida Supreme Court because of his work with the council.

### 'EMBARRASS ME'

"I understand that this investigation was ordered by someone in Tallahassee who apparently holds an official position. I have not applied for a government job, therefore I have not authorized such an investigation. This is possibly a plan to embarrass me as an attorney for the Inter Civic Council of Tallahassee, an organization which is working to improve the condition of Tallahassee's Negro citizens."

Law Violation Charged

# Negro Car Pool Crackdown Due

By DON MEIKLEJOHN and ARTHUR KENNERLY  
Democrat Staff Writers

After a conference today with city attorneys, Police Chief Frank Stoutamire said he would launch a crackdown on Negro motor pool cars violating State "for hire" laws tomorrow.

Stoutamire met with City Attorney James A. Messer and City Solicitor Edward Hill today to discuss various aspects of the crackdown ordered yesterday by the City Commission.

The Commission unanimously voted to crack down on car pool drivers after Messer said a study of the pool's operation showed they violated state laws governing public carriers.

Stoutamire said after the conference that no definite plans have been made, and "It's not my intention to begin until tomorrow."

While passengers aren't charged regular fares, the car pool is supported by contributions from passengers, Messer said, and in his opinion the operation comes under the laws governing "for hire cars."

Police Chief Stoutamire said he had been notified of the Commission action by City Mgr. Asuah

Hopkins. "I have an appointment with the City Attorney today, and will carry out the wishes of the Commission in accordance with the law," Stoutamire said.

The Rev. K. S. Parent, vice-president of the Negro Inter-civic Council, said the Commission's crackdown would probably be discussed at a meeting of the group tonight.

He urged all drivers in the car pool to be "as thoughtful and careful as they can, and to offer no resistance at all if questioned by police."

At yesterday's Commission meeting, Messer said police had turned over to him information obtained in a two weeks investigation of the car pool. The information included detailed lists of drivers, where they picked up passengers, time, and in some instances the names of the passengers. Messer (Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

*File 100-135 sub-61*  
*7C*

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALAHASSEE, FLA.  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61  
Mofile 100-1361

From: Tallahassee "Democrat"  
7/18/56

GDM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3cic/jcl

ENCLOSURE

3 100-135-61-112

From Page 1

## Negro Car Pool Crackdown Due

ser said.

After the Commission's action, Messer said the information would be turned over to City Solicitor Ed Hill who prosecutes cases in City Court, "for proper handling."

City Manager Arvah Hopkins said the crackdown would "begin as soon as the Chief (Police Chief Frank Stoutamire) has enough information. I think he has enough now."

Messer indicated that any cases brought into City Court would be on new arrests, with the information gained in the police investigation of the Negro car pool used to show the cars had been operating in the motor pool for several weeks.

In answer to a question from Commissioner W. T. Mayo, Messer said insurance for operation of a private vehicle would not be applicable to a car being used on a "for hire" basis.

Mayo said he thought it was "time to recognize the danger to the general public. These cars are without any insurance at all since the insurance they now have would be declared null and void if they were operating in the car pool."

Messer said there are probably "two or three statutes being violated" by the car pool cars. Among those mentioned were not having chauffeur's licenses, improper insurance and improper license tags.

Mayo made the motion that the City Commission instruct the City Manager, City Attorney and Police Chief to enforce all rules governing public carriers against the car pool vehicles. Commissioner Joe Cordell added: "To the full extent of the law."

During the discussion, a letter from the Junior Chamber of Commerce urging the City Commission to investigate the legality of the car pool operation was read.

### TO THANK JAYCEES

Commissioner H. C. Summitt asked that a letter thanking the Junior Chamber of Commerce for their suggestion and interest in the situation be forwarded to President Paul Skelton.

In other actions pertaining to the bus situation, Commissioner Mayo said he had heard elderly people were interested in getting the bus-stop benches back as a place to stop and rest.

The benches were removed from the bus stops when buses stopped running July 1.

Commissioners said the benches would be returned in a short time when the buses started running again.

The Commission also went on record as being available to "give any assistance necessary" in getting the buses back on the street.

In a separate meeting yesterday afternoon, local leaders of a "ride-the bus drive" met to work out ways of making Cities Transit buses more appealing to more white persons—mainly office workers in the business district and Capitol Center.

### STATE HELP ASKED

Chamber of Commerce "ride-the-bus" campaign officials met with State department heads and explained to them the importance of having their employees fill out and return to the Chamber several thousand questionnaire-information sheets the local bus company can use as a guide in re-scheduling bus routes in the city.

Tom Humphress, Chamber steering committee member, told the department heads the "future of the community will be in a hazardous position if we lose our bus transportation." He said a city the size of Tallahassee which is growing cannot afford to be without surface transportation.

When asked for suggestions on how to make the busses appealing to State workers, the department chiefs agreed that one of the main ways their employees will ride buses is to have the buses offered conveniently at a "terminal" point in the Capital Center, formerly in the Park Avenue-Monroe Street area.

### DISRUPTION SEED

Some of the department heads were dubious of a proposed staggered work schedule presented to the State Cabinet. They said the proposed schedule, allowing some workers to arrive and leave work about 30 minutes later than others, might disrupt office unity and work schedules.

Chamber officials emphasized they were presenting the staggered work time only for consideration by the State employees and were not trying to change the working hours without the employees consent.

The department heads agreed they would make an effort to get employees to fill out the questionnaires. Some believed, however, that selling the "ride-the-bus" idea can be more effectively handled by Chamber committee members.

Humphress told the group that buses must be brought back to Tallahassee with the future of the city in mind. He said if people will ride the buses they will find they are probably more convenient and traffic congestion downtown will be relieved considerably.

He said an assortment of methods of making the buses more attractive may be used—such as, selling newspapers on the buses along with coffee and fruit juices, and offering coupon booklets to be used as fares.

FBI

Date: 7/28/56

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	_____

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI

From: SAC, MOBILE

RACIAL SITUATION  
STATE OF ALABAMA

Re Mobile letter to Bureau dated 7/6/56 and Bureau letter to Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Army, The Pentagon, Washington 25, D.C. dated 7/12/56.

[REDACTED]

HALLFORD

- 3 - Bureau (100-135-61) (AM)
- 2 - Mobile (100-1342)

bwt

Mr. Belmont

100-135-61-173

RECORDED - 40

7 JUL 30 1956

EX - 107

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DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3cle/scl

71 AUG 2 1956

Approved: F. H. [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

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[REDACTED]

277 30 5 33 [unclear]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-135 Sub 61) DATE: 8/3/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Attached hereto are two copies each of the following newspaper items:

1. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 8/1/56, captioned "CITY BUSES SET TO RUN THURSDAY."
2. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 8/2/56, captioned "CITY BUSES RUNNING AGAIN, TWO WITH NEGRO DRIVERS."

ENCLOSURE  
 2 - Bureau (Enc. 4) (100-135 Sub 61)  
 2 - Mobile (100-1361)

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(4)

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 DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3 clp/gcl

2 Copies To Dept  
 1-135  
 1-136  
 7c

RECORDED-74  
INDEXED-74

100-135-11-192  
AUG 6 1956

1-D 87  
AUG 15 1956

EX-120

*[Handwritten signature]*

# City Buses Running Again, Two With Negro Drivers

By DON MEIKLEJOHN  
Democrat Staff Writer

City buses — including two with Negro drivers—began running early this morning after a month-long layoff.

There was scattered response from Negro riders, but a bus company official said white passenger loads were almost double normal.

Charles L. Carter said he estimated between 1,200 and 1,500 white passengers were carried this morning.

Carter said the biggest increase in white passengers seemed to be among Capitol Center workers.

The Negro drivers — both long-time employes of the Cities Transit Co., as maintenance workers—were put on the runs without advance notice.

Carter said one driver reported he had carried about 40 passengers this morning.

At 8 a.m., Edgar Richardson, one of the Negro drivers, said he had picked up about eight passengers. Most were from the Bond Subdivision area. The

other Negro driver was David Moore.

Carter said James White, another Negro employe of the bus company, will be the relief driver, and Willie C. Wilson, a trainee, is riding the buses learning the runs.

On a run through the Florida A&M and Frenchtown sections early this morning, there were three passengers. One woman rode the bus from the Frenchtown section to the Adams-Park avenue transfer point, a man rode from Frenchtown to the Bond area, and a young girl rode from downtown to Frenchtown.

As the bus passed through the Negro areas, persons walking along stopped and watched it pass, many expressing some surprise at seeing a Negro driver. Richardson waved and some returned his wave.

Through the Florida A&M section, where the Negro boycott of buses started last May 28, no one got on, but students going to classes, stopped and watched the bus pass.

A check at the Park Avenue

and Monroe street transfer station showed several Negro passengers boarding the buses serving the white residential areas.

In most areas, white patronage appeared generally good, although there was some confusion on the new routes and schedules.

For passengers boarding the buses, there were buttons, which said, "I'm Riding the Bus. Are You?", free morning papers, and bus schedules.

The return of bus service was preceded by a "ride the bus" campaign by the Chamber of Commerce, which included sending out questionnaires to persons to get suggestions on new bus routes and schedules.

All routes were revised to meet the needs of the areas where questionnaires determined the demand would be.

During early morning hours, Negro car pools autos were operating on about the same basis, and many Negroes were walking toward town with lunch sacks in hand.

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61  
Mofile 100-1361

Fr: TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
8/2/56

GDM

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DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3claf/d



ENCLOSURE

# City Buses Set To Run Thursday

City buses will begin operating again tomorrow morning on all new routes — including the Florida A & M and Frenchtown runs—Charles L. Carter, Cities Transit Co. manager, said today.

Carter said, "In response to many requests from people we are going to put buses on the colored runs."

Buses will go back in operation at 6 a.m. to 6:45 a.m. tomorrow depending on the route. Routes have been adjusted to meet requests by persons who filled out question-

naires on proposed schedules and routes.

Buses have been off the streets a month today after a boycott by Negro passengers.

Bus service will be free to all passengers tomorrow, Carter said.

Preceding putting the buses back on the streets has been an elaborate "Ride the Bus" campaign spearheaded by the Chamber of Commerce.

More than 1,000 volunteer workers from Tallahassee Civic Clubs blanketed the City Mon-

day night selling bus tickets and distributing new schedules. Wilson Cogswell, chairman of the house to house canvass, estimated about \$800 worth of tickets were sold during the campaign.

Parking meters installed at the Park Avenue and Monroe

street bus stop terminal have been taken out and benches have been put back in preparation for the start of bus schedules tomorrow. The City Commission has also approved construction of two bus shelters at the Park Avenue bus stops.

Re: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61  
Mofile 100-1361

From: Tallahassee "Democrat"  
8/1/56  
GDM

## Back To The Buses

Tomorrow, for the first time in a month, buses will run over Tallahassee's streets.

Various civic organizations have brought them back with their campaign to get riders. The attitude of the bus company officials has been a good indication that we'll have a better bus service than we had before they stopped.

Besides the argument that Tallahassee needs a bus system to hold up its head among cities, attract new people and

serve old residents, there are good reasons for riding the buses. One of the best is that it will relieve parking and traffic down town.

The civic groups which have spearheaded the campaign to get the buses rolling have tried in all their moves to keep the civic aspects foremost, to rise above any tendency to make it a contest between the races.

Both races need the buses. We hope both races will ride them.

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
JOHN M. TAPERS, EDITOR  
August 1, 1956

GDM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN

DATE

3/30/83

BY [signature]

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-35-1000) 11/24/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-1361)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/20/83 BY 673 cle/fcl

For the information of the Bureau, there are enclosed herewith two copies each of the following newspaper items:

1. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 7/25/56, captioned "CITY INTRODUCES ANTI-CAR POOL LAW."
2. Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida, 7/26/56, captioned "NOTHING FIRMED IN CLOSED MEET ON LEGISLATION."

**7C**  
**7D**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

pointed out that the local bus company suspended operations 7/1/56 and local Negroes are now being hauled to and from work by numerous local Negro car pool operators.

According to [REDACTED] that the operation of these various car pools may possibly be in violation of local city or state ordinances, and, if such evidence is developed, the car pool operators could conceivably be prosecuted in local city or state court. *RL*

[REDACTED]

63 AUG 20 1956 (100-135-Sub 61)  
2 - Mobile (100-1361)

RECORDED - 78  
INDEXED - 78

20 AUG 2 1956

(4) ENCLOSURE

**7C**

**7C**  
INX 328

Director, FBI

7/31/56

RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] wanted to know if SRA [REDACTED] could offer him any advice at all as to what his legal position was in this matter. [REDACTED] specifically but tactfully pointed out to [REDACTED] in no uncertain terms that this matter was a local situation in which this Bureau has no jurisdiction and for that reason neither he nor any other representative of the Bureau could offer him any advice.

[REDACTED]

This office will continue to keep the Bureau advised of pertinent developments regarding the bus boycott situation at Tallahassee.

## Nothing Firmed In Closed Meet- On Legislation

"Nothing definite" was decided yesterday at a closed-door luncheon meeting between the City Commission and the Leon County legislative delegation, Commissioner W. T. Mayo reported.

The meeting was held at the Tallahassee Dining Room yesterday afternoon with members of the Commission, Reps. Mallory Horne and Kenneth Ballinger, Sen. Wilson Carraway, City Mgr. Arvah Hopkins, City Atty. James Messer, and City Auditor George White.

After the group had assembled, a discussion on whether to admit the press resulted in a decision to close the meeting, but to allow questions before the meeting started.

### LEGISLATION TALKED

The group said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible special legislation at the current session of the State Legislature.

In answer to a question to whether the legislation would pertain to the bus boycott or car pool operation, it was agreed that it was "reasonable to assume that it did."

In meeting with the Leon delegation, the main aim was to determine if it would be possible to introduce special legislation without interfering or jeopardizing the overall program submitted by Gov. Collins.

Commissioners said they also wanted to get the thinking of the Leon delegation on the type of legislation they would favor if it were possible to introduce special bills.

### OPPOSE OPEN MEETING

Among those taking a stand one way or the other, Commissioners J. W. Cordell and H. C. Summitt and Sen. Carraway opposed opening the meeting to the press on the grounds that they might discuss possible legislation that would never be introduced and "it would do more harm than good."

Rep. Horne along with Commissioner W. T. Mayo and Fred Winterle said they had no objections personally to opening the meeting. Others were non-committal.

## No Arrests But . . .

# Police Question Car Pool Drivers

About 100 Negroes have been questioned at the police station in an investigation of the Negro car pool operation, Police Chief Frank Stoutamire said today but no arrests have been made.

The investigation was launched after the City Commission voted last week to crackdown on the car pool under State laws governing "for hire" vehicles.

City Atty. James Messer said in his opinion the car pool operation violates these laws.

Chief Stoutamire said when the police stop a car pool car, it is escorted to the police station. The driver and all occupants are questioned using a detailed questionnaire, he said.

Among the questions are such things as when and where the driver picked up the passengers, where he buys his gas and who pays for it, Stoutamire said.

Stoutamire said the information obtained in the investigation will be turned over to City Solicitor Edward Hill, who will study the information and issue

warrants where violations are indicated.

RE: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
Bufile 100-135 Sub 61  
Nofile 100-1361

From The Tallahassee Democrat  
Tallahassee, Fla.  
July 26, 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/30/83 BY sp3 cle/gcl

100-135-61-17

ENCLOSURE

# City Introduces Anti-Car Pool Law

## Possible State Legislation Discussed By Commissioners

City Commissioners yesterday introduced an ordinance outlawing car pools and then went into a closed-door huddle to discuss possible state legislation apparently on the same subject.

Commissioners said today they planned to confer with the Leon County legislative delegation on

decided to contact the Leon legislators today to see if there was a possibility of introducing special legislation at the current session.

On the legislative front, Leon Rep. Kenneth Ballinger said he would try to introduce a bill to outlaw unlicensed car pools during transportation boycotts. He said the measure might be considered as pertaining to highway safety.

### NO REFERENCE

The proposed new City ordinance introduced yesterday does not specifically refer to Negro car pools which have been running since the beginning of the boycott, but City Attorney James Messer said drivers in the Negro car pools could be arrested under the ordinance if passed.

The ordinance provides a maximum penalty of \$500 or 60 days.

Under regular procedure of (Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

some proposed "special legislation" but they declined to say specifically what kind of legislation.

Commissioner W. T. Mayo said a possible program of legislation was discussed at the closed-door meeting and it was

# Anti-Car Pool Law Introduced

the Commission, final action on the ordinance would be taken Aug. 14.

As worded, the ordinance would prohibit a person to "regularly or continuously transport" persons by car unless related by blood or marriage, licensed by the Florida Railroad and Public Utilities Commission, or franchised by the City. It also would allow transportation of children to school without restriction.

The ordinance also makes it unlawful for a car to "cruise" the streets soliciting passengers.

Messer, in answer to a question about taking a friend downtown, said the key words in the ordinance were "regularly or continuously."

### 'UP TO THE POLICE'

He said he did not know whether a police crackdown on Negro car pool operations would be held up pending passage of the ordinance. "That would be up to the police," Messer said.

The City Commission ordered a crackdown last week on the Negro car pool under State laws governing public carriers. After a study of the car pool operation, Messer said they were violating the State laws.

Chief Frank Stoutamire said he was still investigating the car pools and had not reached a point where arrests would be made.

Car pool operators are being brought into the police station for questioning and Detective R. J. Strickland is handling the investigation. No one has been arrested.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/30/83 BY *Sp3cl/gcl*

RE: RACIAL SITUATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
BUFILE 100-135 Sub 61  
MOFILE 100-1361

From The Tallahassee Democrat  
Tallahassee, Fla.  
7/25/56

JEW

100-135-11-11-1  
ENCLOSURE