

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Mobile

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION IN ALABAMA

DATE: 3/13/56

Chacon

As of possible interest to the Bureau, I am attaching two copies of the following newspaper items:

1. Item appearing in The Dothan Eagle, Dothan, Alabama, 3/11/56, captioned "GRIFFIN URGES DIXIE TO DEFY SCHOOL RULING."
2. Item appearing in The Dothan Eagle, Dothan, Alabama, 3/11/56, captioned "HOUSTON UNIT TOLD NAACP MOSCOW-LED."
3. Editorial appearing in The Dothan Eagle, Dothan, Alabama, 3/11/56, captioned "THE SPREADING SHADOW OF RACIAL CRISES TESTS THE CALIBER OF CITIZENS COUNCILS."
4. Item appearing in The Dothan Eagle, Dothan, Alabama, 3/11/56, captioned "PAR-REACHING NEW MEASURES AIMED AT SAVING SEGREGATION."
5. Item appearing in The Dothan Eagle, Dothan, Alabama, 3/11/56, captioned "AN ALABAMA NEGRO WHO MIGRATED NORTH QUITTS THE NAACP, PRAISES HOME STATE." (One copy only)

2 - Bureau (Encl. 9) ENCLOSURE

2 - Mobile (44-00-A, 105-121)

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EX-125

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE _____ BY _____

RECORDED - 81

INDEXED - 81
EX-125

100-135-61-86

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Griffin Urges Dixie To Defy School Ruling

By ZACK STRICKLAND
And DON LAKEY
Eagle Staff Writers

CLAYTON — Georgia's Gov. Marvin Griffin told an estimated 4,500 persons here last night that only a "great manifestation of public opinion from the grass roots up" can win the South's fight to maintain segregation.

Speaking at a rally of the Barbour County White Citizens Council, Gov. Griffin said, "Give them a tide of public opinion and, yea, even 1,000 years from now, we won't have integration."

Griffin, who was the principal speaker at the hour-long meeting which fell far short of a predicted 10,000 audience, said the South's fight was for preservation of "our constitutional form of government" not just segregation.

He cited a long list of what he termed "constitutional truths" and charged the U.S. Supreme Court with "usurping power which did not belong to it."

Referring to his home state, Griffin declared, "We shall not have integration in Georgia. If our public school system is destroyed, it will be through the edict by a federal court that usurped power that did not belong to it."



GEORGIA'S GOV. GRIFFIN
With WCC Chmn. A. C. Martin (r.)

Praises Wallace's Stand

The Georgia governor's introduction by Probate Judge Marshall Williams brought cheers from the chilled spectators when the judge said Griffin was the man Alabama "would like to swap Gov. Folsom for."

Gov. Griffin's opening remarks were praise for Circuit Judge George Wallace's "courage in informing the do-gooders and meddlers that he would put the scalawags in jail for meddling" into the traditional secrecy of jury proceedings. (A few weeks ago Judge Wallace said he would jail any federal investigator who tried to probe activities of juries in his circuit.)

The governor also made brief reference to the furor caused by Negro Antherine Lucy's attempt to enroll in the University of Alabama. "Your handling of the 'Tusca-Lucy' situation met with hearty approval in Georgia," he said with a smile.

"Where's Big Jim?"

Gov. Griffin was interrupted in his opening remarks with a call from a spectator: "Where's Big Jim?"

From the audience came a booted: "He's with Lucy."

The Bainbridge newspaper man who ascended to the governor's chair after a term as lieutenant governor said, "We don't contemplate any trouble from the Negroes but we do contemplate trouble with the sorry white folks."

A reference was made to Gov. Griffin's telegram to the Georgia Board of Regents (governing body of the state's university system) in protest to Georgia Tech's playing in the Sugar Bowl football classic against the University of Pittsburgh team of which a Negro was a member.

He was criticized for his action, the governor said, but, "When we heard from the boys out in the

(Continued on Page 3-Cole-4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/23/83 BY spzcl/pjcl

The Dothan Eagle
Dothan, Alabama
Sunday, March 11, 1956

Re: Racial Situation in Ala.
Profile 44-00-B, 105-121.

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-86

Griffin Urges South To Defy Court's Ruling On Schools

(Picture on page 1)
country of Georgia, it was 8 to 1
a favor of the stand."

Then he added, "Somebody was
thinking too much of the sugar in
the bowl instead of the chocolate
in the 'Pitt'."

The governor also took a back-
handed wipe at bi-racial councils
such as the one proposed by Gov.
Folsom. He said he was asked to
form a bi-racial group by what he
termed a "gourd-head" but he
turned down the suggestion.

Duty To Interpose

Griffin said when he refused
the unidentified man then ques-
tioned his taking the oath of of-
fice to abide by the federal con-
stitution. "I told him, yes, I took
an oath to support the constitu-
tion, but not the Supreme Court,"
Griffin declared.

After citing his "constitutional
truths", Gov. Griffin asserted, "It
is the duty of a state to interpose
between the unlawful edicts of a
court and the unlawful conse-
quences such edicts will bring.
We must do everything to protect
the 10th amendment to the consti-
tution (guaranteeing the sovereign-
ty of states). That, to me, is the
prime essence of what we are
fighting for."

Gov. Griffin said if Georgia
could have foreseen "170-odd years
ago," when the federal constitu-
tion was written, that "nine men
... would bend to minority politi-
cal pressures, Georgia would not
have ratified the constitution."

The nine Supreme Court justices,
the governor continued, were "vag-
abonds, who went off and got au-
thorities in sociology, psychology
and anthropology" in banning seg-
regation.

"Toadying To Negroes"

Both national political parties
were briefly but acidly criticized.
Griffin said, "Both parties are try-
ing to see who can toady to Negro
minorities and stab us in the
back."

He concluded, "Let's raise hell
and turn over the wagon until they
hear us."

Griffin's remarks were ac-
cepted calmly by the audience,
many of whom sat in automobiles
around the Clayton High School
athletic field where the rally was
held. There were few outbursts of
applause and no demonstrations.

At the conclusion of the speech,
while Griffin was being congratu-
lated by guests on the speaker's
platform, one spectator in the
milling audience turned, cupped
his hands and yelled: "Yeah,
we'll swap Big Jim for him—and
throw in Richmond Flowers (Hous-
ton-Henry County state senator)
to boot."

A. G. Martin, former state legis-
lator and chairman of the Barbour
council presided. He introduced
several guests, including former-
Gov. Chauncey M. Sparks of Eu-
aula and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Grif-
fin, brother and sister-in-law of
Gov. Griffin.

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DATE 3/23/83 BY Sp3cl/col

100-135-61-26

ENCLOSURE



PART OF CROWD ESTIMATED AT 4,500 WHO ATTENDED BAR BOUR WHITE CITIZENS COUNCIL MEET AT CLAYTON FRIDAY
Audience Heard Georgia's Gov. Marvin Griffin Level Broad side At Supreme Court Edict Banning Segregation In Public Schools

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ENCLOSURE 100-135-61-86

Houston Unit Told NAACP Moscow-Led

By ED DRIGGERS

An Arkansas speaker told a white Citizens Council gathering here last night that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People "originated in Moscow" and is not out to advance the Negro's station in life but to "destroy America" with "amalgamation of the races."

The speaker was Curt Copeland who edits "The Arkansas Faith," a magazine dedicated to preserve segregation. He was one of two men who addressed more than 1,000 persons who jammed Houston County courthouse and stood outside to listen over loud speakers.

The other speaker was Luther Ingalls of Montgomery, attorney for the Alabama Association of Citizens Councils. Time after time both drew applause from the crowd with their remarks.

Copeland has gained nationwide recognition for his stand against integration of schools at Hoxie, Ark., and devoted much of his talk to problems there. He

"The sheriff's department will join 100 per cent, Sheriff Alvin D. Davis, Jr. told newsmen last night after the Houston County White Citizens Council voted to accept law enforcement officers.

Wallace D. Malone, executive board member, proposed that an amendment be made to the constitution of the council eliminating the clause which prohibits membership of law enforcement officers. The amendment was unanimously accepted.

called Gov. Orval Faubus' government the "worst mess of trash that has been elected since Reconstruction days," but leveled some of his attack at Alabama's Gov. James E. Folsom.

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DATE 3/23/83 BY 403 clc/gdc

THE DOTHAN EAGLE
DOTHAN, ALABAMA
MARCH 11, 1956
PAGE 1

Re: RACIAL SITUATION IN ALA.
Mofile 44-00-A, 105-121

ENCLOSURE 100-125-61-

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America, he said, "is at the cross roads of civilization and Christianity." Problems of integration were called "the most serious thing you and I have ever been confronted with."

There is "absolutely no middle ground," he continued. "One is for the segregation of the races or he is for the total elimination of the white race."

Twice Copeland referred to the Supreme Court as "nine scoundrels," who "committed high treason against the Constitution" when they handed down the May 1954 ruling which said separate school facilities for the races should be abolished. Copeland said the Constitution was "spit upon" by those "who held up their hands and swore to defend it."

At Hoxie, Copeland said schools were integrated by a "Copperhead school board" without even being asked by the NAACP. He said the board did so:

1. Because of a "direct message sent from Almighty God that it is the right thing to do."
2. Because the "Black Monday" Supreme Court ruling was "aimed directly at Hoxie."
3. For "economy reasons."

Help Is Needed

He urged his audience to defy the court, saying it "is not the supreme law of the land. . . You sitting right there tonight are the supreme law of the land."

Copeland praised the Alabama Legislature for taking the lead with its resolution on "interposition" which declares the Supreme Court decision "null, void and of no effect." It touched off an effort among other Southern states to have the ruling nullified.

"You're going to have to have a little help," he went on. "It wouldn't hurt you to elect a governor that would enforce it."

In Arkansas, he said, only two people started the "resistance" against integration of schools "but we've got enough over there for us now to elect a governor."

Of politicians, Copeland said, "You can't talk to them about motherhood. . . the only way you can ever make them look up is to



CURT COPELAND, B. W. CONNELL, LUTHER INGALLS
... And "Arkansas Faith" Which Fights Racial Integration

threaten them with the power of votes."

The Supreme Court ruling was referred to again as "the greatest blessing that ever happened to the

South" because it caused people to realize the South "sat by and allowed these rights to be taken away from us."

Ingalls was introduced by W.D. Malone, Dothan banker and former Alabama legislator who served with him. Malone has taken a lead in formation of the Houston Council and was elected to its executive committee. Malone said:

"The South is in a dilemma. We did not bring that on ourselves; it was forced upon us. . . It's time to stand up and be counted. A little bit later those that don't stand up will be counted and don't think they won't."

Montgomery Bus Boycott

Malone also said, "We believe the organization (of a council) will forestall any racial trouble."

Ingalls told of first attempts to organize a council at Montgomery but said people were "complacent" until the boycott that has "wrecked" the bus company because it has been "95 per cent effective."

The boycott started after Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to move toward the rear of a bus. Ingalls said, "What you don't know is that this was the fifth time Rosa Parks had been thrown off. . . She was a 'plant' by the NAACP."

Now Ingalls said the Montgomery Council has some 13,194 members "as of last Wednesday." He referred to Citizens Councils as "a rallying point for the right thinking people." They are "not trying to fight or force down the colored people," he added.

The Montgomery attorney continued by saying, "We want all white people to stand against integration. . . There is no limitation of political or religious beliefs. . . We don't care whether you are a Mason, Catholic or a Jew . . . We don't care whether you voted for Jim Folsom. . . except that you're against mixing races. . . everywhere."

Folsom according to Ingalls, "sold out to the NAACP and I can prove it."

He called Alabama's governor "Negro Jim" and said Folsom "is trying to ride a fence but we're not going to let him. He belongs over there with the NAACP and the outside agitators."

Leaders Called Subversive

He accused the NAACP of "subversive" tendencies, saying 75 of its leaders have been cited for subversive activities or for having connections with subversive organizations. Thurgood Marshall, chief legal counsel for the NAACP, Ingalls declared, has been "cited 18 times for subversive activities."

Obviously referring to some North Alabama councils seeking to exclude Jews, Ingalls called them "bad egg organizations." He placed those advocating violence in the same category and said they have not been recognized by the state council.

The only way a recognized council is "violent," Ingalls said, is that it is "violently opposed to violence."

"Hostile" newspapers, he pointed out "will call you anti-racial; preachers will say, 'anti-religion.' "But you are anti-nothing," he told them. "You are for the preservation of the United States and you are for the preservation of your white blood."

Chairman B. W. Connell presided at the meeting. Other officers are J. W. Rish, vice chairman and Dan Morgan, secretary-treasurer. All

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three are of Dothan.

Executive board members, accepted by unanimous vote are: Reuben Wright of Ashford, Jack Stuckey of Midland City Route 1, Forest Field of Columbia, Willie Lewis of Cottonwood and nine Dothan men: W. D. Malone, Joe Johnson, P. C. White, Sam Stephens, W. O. Stewart, Jimmie Jones, F. G. Northcutt, Dr. F. B. Edwards and W. M. Ray.

ENCLOSURE

100-138-61-26

THE DOTHAN EAGLE

"For I Heard Them Say, 'Let Us Go To Dothan.'" - Isaiah 58:12

Sunday, March 11, 1956

The Spreading Shadow Of Racial Crisis Tests The Caliber Of Citizens Councils

The crisis in race relations in the South, accentuated by unrest, distrust and tension, is moving inexorably toward every part of this vast region. It is traveling in some areas at a fast pace, gathering momentum under the pressure of agitation and the foment of wrecking crews.

It is moving slowly, but just as surely, in other areas. Sometimes its movement is apparent, sometimes not. Eventually it will find its way into every community, even the one whose bi-racial society has dwelled for generations in tranquility, good will and mutual respect. It is going to be with us for a long time.

We must live with it and to do so will try our patience, intelligence, understanding and faith as these attributes have never been strained before. Unfortunately, the touchy problems that are the core of this unsought friction have no pat answers, no quick solutions, no magic formulas.

The crisis is beginning to cast its shadow toward the Wiregrass, its appearance on the horizon attested by the organization of White Citizens Councils. Several have already been formed in this area. There will be more. Here, as elsewhere, they come into being in anticipation of and in recognition of pressure from the Negro's own organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Wherever the Councils have appeared, they have been the fruit of the NAACP's aggressiveness, its unreasonable, arrogant and blustering leadership, and its assumed authority to tell the Southern white people how they must comply with Supreme Court orders which these people not only question but bitterly resent. In some instances — as in this area — the Councils have preceded NAACP thrusts at the local level.

The white people have the right to organize, to express their redress for grievances, to unify their protests and to look after their interests along racial lines as a collective group. They have the right to leadership in a common pur-

the Councils' actions, keep the leadership in proper hands, exercise discipline and hold the reins while unwise and impulsive heads seek to take the Councils on a tangent they can do some good.

But if they don't — if they fail the responsibility they have assumed — this area may well rue the day these organizations were formed. And, at the outset, they should repudiate a line that many find objectionable. It is that if you aren't with us, you are against us. Neither the Councils nor any other organization can enlist all people who believe in segregation, and they resent the implication that if they don't join they will wish later they had.

It would be folly, indeed, for the Councils to let this militancy divide a people who have the same desires for separate schools and who wish to preserve segregation by every legal and honorable means. They would bring the house down on their heads, just as surely as if they allowed the Councils to become something other than the organizational announcements proclaim.

The Councils, properly managed and properly led, have the capacity of accomplishing desirable objectives. At the moment, as with all new organizations, they must prove themselves. The leaders and members should devote themselves to that end and wise leadership will determine this as a first order of business.

It will be the fervent hope of all men of good will, no matter to which race they belong, that the activities and conduct of the Councils will reflect credit on the people of the Wiregrass and the South. Our people, Council members and non-members, alike, would have it no other way.

And these are our people. With them we have gone through depression, war, epidemic and festival alike. We have wept with them, we have rejoiced with them. We have run the scales of every emotion. We have argued as kin do, we have shared victories and defeats. We have counseled with them, and by them we have been counseled.

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DATE 3/23/83 BY SP5ck/pcl

ENCLOSURE 700-735-0

Far-Reaching New Measures Aimed At Saving Segregation

By REX THOMAS

MONTGOMERY, March 10 (AP)—Far-reaching new measures have been woven into the widening pattern of legislation designed to preserve racial segregation in Alabama.

With the present special session of the Legislature scarcely more than a week old, bills have been introduced to:

Give college authorities a legal weapon against the enrollment of Negro students.

Allow cities to dispose of public recreational facilities to prevent integration there.

Keeping Negroes Out

Empower railroads and buses to refuse to haul passengers who won't abide by "reasonable" rules a regulations on seating accommodations.

Resolutions have been adopted in one house or the other urging the U.S. Supreme Court to "modify" its anti-segregation decrees in public schools, and asking Congress to appropriate funds to transport Negroes out of the South.

And already enacted into law at previous legislative sessions since the historic school integration decisions of 1954 are measures aimed at

Keeping Negroes out of white schools below the college level.
Allowing school officials in two

rural Black Belt counties to fire teachers who advocate non-segregated classrooms.

Making public the membership lists of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People in two counties.

Directed At University

Along with those efforts to maintain the traditional color barriers, a proposed constitutional amendment will be submitted to the voters in a special statewide election Aug. 28 in a separate approach to the school integration problem. It would give parents "freedom of choice" to say whether their children attend integrated or segregated classes.

Most of the efforts toward preserving the color line since the present legislative session started March 1 have been directed at the University of Alabama and other state-supported institutions of higher learning.

They were prompted by the violence at the university following the enrollment of its first Negro student, Autherine Lucy, who has since been expelled and is seeking readmission.

White Alumni

One measure, by Rep. Charles McKay of Talladega, would require new students at any tax-supported college to submit written endorsements from three graduates of that school.

Since no Negro has ever graduated from a state-controlled white college, applications for admission to white schools would have to be recommended by white alumni.

An even stronger measure came from Rep. Pat Boyd of Pike County. It would authorize college authorities to investigate the background of all prospective students and turn them down if their presence would endanger the "lives, health or welfare" of students or the school.

Applicants also would be judged on their "morals, conduct, health and personal standards" and their "home environment."

The Legislature itself could take over the administration of any institution under still another bill sponsored by Rep. Virgis Ashworth of Bibb County.

ators to keep them segregated. It was introduced by Sen. Gerald Bradford of Clarke County.

In transportation, Sen. Sam Engelhardt of Macon County proposed to give railroad and bus companies the right to make "reasonable" rules for seating passengers "to maintain peace and good order or to preserve property."

The operator could refuse to ride anyone who contested the seating arrangement.

Members of the House unanimously approved a resolution this week appealing to the Supreme Court to ease its anti-segregation stand on the schools, but it hasn't come out of the Senate Rules Committee.

Move Negroes North

A vote in the Senate is likely next week.

But the upper chamber has asked the House to return Marengo County Sen. E. O. Eddins' resolution asking Congress to provide funds to move Negroes out of the South. It may be rescinded.

One school segregation measure has already become law, enacted by the Legislature last summer.

Sponsored by Engelhardt, it would give local school boards almost unlimited police power to tell individual pupils where to attend grade school and high school classes.

Although neither race is mentioned by name, the purpose is to let the boards assign white pupils to white schools and Negroes to Negro schools.

Registration Fee

In separate acts, the Legislature also authorized boards in Macon and Marengo Counties to fire any teacher who advocates race-mixing in the schools. Negroes outnumber white residents in both counties.

Another bill affecting only Marengo County requires the registration of membership lists of any organizations existing in that county. Its avowed purpose was to get the names of members of the NAACP.

In Wilcox County, the NAACP and any similar organization is required to pay a registration fee of \$100 plus \$5 for each member.

The "Freedom of Choice" constitutional amendment to be voted

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DATE 3/23/83 BY [signature]

*Le Racial Situation in
Ala
Mapfile 44-00A, 105-171*

The Dothan Eagle
Dothan, Alabama
Sunday, March 11, 1956

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-86

PEOPLE'S FORUM

An Alabama Negro Who Migrated North
Quits The NAACP, Praises Home State

Editor,
The Eagle:

I attach a letter received from one of my colored friends who left Alabama years ago and went to Brooklyn, N.Y. It is quite evident that he is still proud of his home State, Alabama, in its dealings with segregation and the NAACP.

Yours truly,
La Bruce Hanahan,
Dothan, Ala.

of Alabama some day rule the world. I am thanking all of you for what you are doing. I am, yours truly, a Negro from the Heart of Dixie and my home State is Alabama and my name is,

John Tutler,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

(Enclosed, one NAACP membership card with the notation: "I was a member of this mess. Believe me, it stinks.")

Mr. Bruce Hanahan,
Dear Sir:

Tonight I cannot help but cry because of the way Miss Autherine Lucy has done. She has made me feel ashamed to be a Negro. I happen to be born in Alabama and I know that the white people are very, very nice to the Negroes. And, Mr. Bruce, I know why all of this trouble. I was once a member of the NAACP but I quit, and do you know why I quit?

Well, I saw that the NAACP did not recognize the white man in the South and I knew at once that it was no good. So I quit the NAACP. Mr. Bruce, I was a member of it long enough to find out that the NAACP is owned and operated by a bunch of smart Negroes and backed up by a bunch of people who think that they are smarter than any one else and I was so happy when Alabama showed those Negroes just how smart they were until I just said, thank God for my home State of Alabama.

The reason I am writing you this is to ask you to please give this story to the Alabama newspapers and tell them to keep up the good work. It makes me feel mighty good to see my smart lawyer from Alabama showing these folks up here just who is dumb. All I can say is, thank God for my people in Alabama and may the people

For This Amendment

Editor,
The Eagle:

The Legislature of Alabama in recommending an Amendment to the state constitution whereby in the future should we have another incident in the management of our schools, such as the one in Tuscaloosa, that our Legislature will be called into session and assume all of the duties of the Trustees and executive officers of the school, is entirely correct. In Tuscaloosa, the Trustees and Dr. Carmichael were only obeying a state law, one that had been sustained by 5 previous U.S. Supreme Court decisions and every Supreme Court of Alabama School officers did not make the laws. But the State of Alabama did. So, should we ever have such an incident, let the people of Alabama through its Legislature assume full responsibility. Please let's not penalize the School Executives with litigation for obeying Alabama laws.

If the Federal Government wishes to put every citizen in Alabama in jail for obeying our State laws, that is the Federal government's problem.

I hope the prison fare will be good.

P. M. Carlisle,
B'ham 9, Ala.
1500 Grove Place.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/23/83 BY sp3 ckc/ijcl

The Dothan Eagle
Dothan, Alabama
Sunday, March 11, 1956

Re: *Raised Situation in
Alabama*
*Files 44-00A,
105-121*

ENCLOSURE 100-135-61-86

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

MAR 19 1956

TELETYPE

FBI, MOBILE
DIRECTOR, FBI

3-19-56

6-04 PM

NPO

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

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

RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALA. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ADVISED FIVE P. M. TODAY THAT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY, IS IN
MONTGOMERY FOR BOYCOTT TRIAL AND EXPECTS TO BE HERE FOR
DURATION OF TRIAL. MOBILE WILL DISCREETLY FOLLOW HIS
ACTIVITIES THROUGH SOURCES AND CONTACTS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO BUREAU. AT TRIAL TODAY, JUDGE EUGENE
CARTER DENIED MOTION OF DEFENDANT TO QUASH INDICTMENT ON
GROUNDS BY BOYCOTT LAW INVALID. JUDGE CARTER GRANTED MOTION
OF DEFENDANT FOR SEPARATE TRIAL. REV. M. L. KING IS FIRST
DEFENDANT TO BE TRIED AND [REDACTED] ESTIMATES HIS TRIAL WILL
TAKE A WEEK. ON MOTION OF CIRCUIT SOLICITOR WILLIAM F. THETFORD
INDICTMENTS AGAINST THREE DEFENDANTS WERE DISMISSED INCLUDING
THAT AGAINST REV. M. C. CLEVELAND. [REDACTED]

Bary...

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

RECORDED - 64 100-135-61-70

HALLFORD

MAR 28 1956

CORRECT FIRST LINE THIRD WD SH BE - MONTGOMERY
CORRECT LINE EIG///// NINE WORD EIGHT SH BE - WORKER-
END AND ACK PLS 7-10 PM OK FBI WA JFP

Handwritten notes and initials

cc - Liaison Section

Mr. [REDACTED]

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100-135-61

RECORDED - 64

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100-135-61-87

Date: March 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 - Mobile
Montgomery, Alabama

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

[REDACTED]

advised on March 19, 1956, that [REDACTED] of the Socialist Workers Party, an organization cited by the Attorney General under Executive Order 10450, is in Montgomery and expects to remain there for the duration of the trial now in progress against certain Negroes for their activity in connection with the boycott of the city buses in Montgomery.

At this trial on March 19, 1956, Judge Eugene Carter denied a motion to quash the indictment on the grounds that the boycott law is invalid. On the motion of the Circuit Solicitor indictments against three of the defendants were dismissed, including Reverend H. C. Cleveland.

[REDACTED]

Some time later while walking along the street near the place where he

cc - Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

cc - Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

MAR 23 1956

71 MAR 26 1956

CONRAD
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TELE. ROOM
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(By Form 0-6, same date)
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Letter to Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Army

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was rooming in Montgomery someone called to him. [redacted] observed a Negro sitting in a car at the curb and walked over to the car where the man identified himself as [redacted] of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. [redacted] appeared to know [redacted] and offered to help him financially and to assist him in obtaining a job. [redacted] stated that [redacted] pointed out, however, that if he and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People helped [redacted] then he, [redacted] would want [redacted] to cooperate with him. [redacted] immediately asked [redacted] just how he would be expected to cooperate. [redacted] reportedly told [redacted] that he, [redacted] could be expected to go to certain designated street corners, take a stick with him and "beat hell out of any Negroes riding a bus." [redacted] said that [redacted] did not specify how much money he would be paid but only stated that he would see to it that [redacted] would have some money.

[redacted] continued that he did not inquire of [redacted] any further details concerning this assignment [redacted]

[redacted]

For your further information, the "Montgomery Advertiser" in its issue of March 18, 1956, contained an article captioned "Reporter Here for Boycott Trials Says Movement Confuses French." This article quotes Daniel Morgaine, a United States reporter for the "Daily newspaper," as saying "In France people have gone to jail for just walking."

[redacted]

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

Joe Ashell, city editor of the "Montgomery Advertiser," in his column in the newspaper reported that a line had been dropped by the printers and that the line should have read that people in France were confused about why in Alabama people have gone to jail for just walking. Ashell in his column stated "It was an error and it is herewith corrected in the interests of journalism and international relations." Ashell in describing Merguine's concern said that the letter "did a real French flip" and was "apparently worried about being offered a White Citizens Council membership gratis" since Merguine called the newspaper and mentioned the error in a most protesting manner.

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

cc - Director of Special Investigations
The Inspector General BY COURIER SERVICE
Department of the Air Force
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.

FBI

Date: 3/19/56

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)

From SAC, MOBILE
To: DIRECTOR, FBI
RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALA.

"Montgomery Advertiser," Montgomery, Ala.,
3/18/56, carried article Page 8-B captioned, "Reporter
Here for Boycott Trials Says Movement Confuses French."
This article quotes DANIEL MORGAINE, U. S. Reporter for
"France - Svoir" daily newspaper in France as saying,
"In France people have gone to jail for just walking."

In column City Limit by JOE AZBELL, City Editor,
"Montgomery Advertiser, Page 9-a, AZBELL said that
a line was dropped by the printers and that the line should
have read that people in France were confused about why in
Ala. people have gone to jail for just walking. AZBELL
said, "It was an error and it is herewith corrected in the
interest of journalism and International relations. AZBELL
in describing MORGAINE's concern said that MORGAINE "Did
a real French flip" and was "apparently worried about
being offered a White Citizens Council membership gratis,
for early yesterday MORGAINE called to protest error in a
most protesting manner."

HALLFORD
3 - Bureau
2 - Mobile (44-439)
ojt
(5)

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED - 64

EX-125

100-135-61-88

7 MAR 21 1956

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

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Mobile

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DATE: 3/20/56

As of possible interest to the Bureau, enclosed herewith are two copies each of the following newspaper items:

- 1) Item appearing in the Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, on 3/18/56, captioned "REPORTER HERE FOR BOYCOTT TRIALS SAYS MOVEMENT CONFUSES FRENCH;"
- 2) Item appearing Alabama Journal, Montgomery, on 3/19/56 captioned "SEPARATE TRIALS PLANNED FOR 90 IN BUS HEARING;"
- 3) Item appearing Alabama Journal, Montgomery, on 3/19/56 captioned "3-JUDGE COURT NAMED TO HEAR ATTACKS ON ACTS;"
- 4) Item appearing in Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, on 3/18/56 captioned "FIVE LAWYERS READY DEFENSE OF BOYCOTTERS."

ENCLOSURE

2 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (100-135-61) (AIRMAIL)

1 - Mobile (44-439)

mem

(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/13/83 BY SP3UC/PT

ice to Olney by 0-6
1 photo to Jones by 0-6
2-27-56

REC'D' WELUBD2 ZEL

RECORDED - 64

100-135-61-89

MAR 28 1956

EX-103

MAR 30 1956

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Five Lawyers Ready Defense Of Boycotters

By STEVE LESHER

Five Negro attorneys will defend 93 Negroes who stand trial here at 10 a.m. tomorrow on charges of advocating an illegal boycott of Montgomery City Lines buses by 40,000 Montgomery Negroes.

Among the 93 are 25 Negro ministers. At their arraignment here recently, 89 Negroes pleaded not guilty. Four others have been arrested since the grand jury returned 11 indictments naming 113 Negroes who allegedly have instigated the boycott.

BEFORE JUDGE

Defending the Negroes will be Arthur Shores, Orzell Billingsly Jr. and Peter Hall all of Birmingham, and Fred D. Gray and Charles Langford of Montgomery. Shores gained fame as the attorney for Autherine J. Lucy, 26-year-old Negro woman who twice was ordered admitted to the University of Alabama by a federal court, only to be expelled for unfounded charges she made against the university.

The Negroes will appear before Judge Eugene W. Carter in Circuit Court. The attorneys for the defense have waived trial by jury and will allow the judge to rule in each case. Reasons for this (See BOYCOTT, Page 2A)

move were not revealed yesterday by the defense

FREEDOMS VIOLATED

Carter, who had directed the grand jury to investigate the bus boycott, must rule on defense demurrers before the trials begin. The demurrers claim in effect, that the freedoms of speech, worship and peaceful assembly have been violated.

The law, which has been used only in labor disputes in the state, was upheld in 1942 by the Alabama State Supreme Court. The defense apparently plans to appeal to federal courts in the event of convictions by calling the law a violation of the U.S. Constitution.

Circuit Solicitors William F. Thetford, Robert Stewart and Maury Smith plan to meet today to discuss their strategy. Yesterday, they gave no indication as to which of the 93 they would call for prosecution first. Similarly, the defense would not reveal if the Negroes would call for separate trials, which would stretch the proceedings out over a period of several weeks, or if they would stand trial together. All defendants are charged with exactly the same misdemeanor, which carries a penalty of not more than \$1,000 and not less than \$100 in fines plus not more than six months in the county jail.

Circuit Clerk John Mathews said yesterday that subpoenas have been issued for 77 witnesses — 45 for the defense and 32 for the state. Included among those subpoenaed are City Commissioners W. A. Gayle, Clyde Sellers and Frank Parks; Police Chief G. J. Ruppenthal, the Rev. Robert Graetz, white pastor of an all-Negro church, and Montgomery City Lines Manager J. H. Bagley. Nine bus drivers also have been subpoenaed.

The boycott began last Dec. 5 after Rosa Parks, a Negro seamstress, was fined \$14 for refusal to move to a Negro section when white passengers entered a city bus. At mass meetings in local Negro churches, Negro ministers and other leaders urged the city's 40,000 Negroes not to ride the buses.

They complied virtually 100 per cent and either walked, rode taxicabs or formed car pools. Boycott leaders at first did not demand an end to segregation but insisted that bus seating be on a "first come, first-served" basis, starting with the back seats for Negroes and front seats for whites.

Company officials refused to drop a requirement that the 10 front seats be reserved for whites. Negro leaders also demanded Negro drivers for predominantly Negro routes.

Later, however, Atty Fred Gray filed a petition in Federal District Court to declare bus segregation illegal. Gray was then accused of filing the suit without the consent of one of the five Negro women listed as plaintiffs. He was cleared by Judge Carter.

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Alabama
Date 3-18-56
Page 1

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/23/83 BY Asck/jcl

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61

The boycotters here won support from Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. (D-NY), pastor of the (Negro) Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York and leader of a civil rights bloc in the U.S. House. He urged federal protection for Montgomery Negroes involved in the boycott.

Powell proposed that Negroes throughout the U.S. support Montgomery Negroes by joining March 28 in a "National Deliverance Day of Prayer." He said no Negroes should work or attend school between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. on that day.

Powell reneged when a spiritual leader of 5,000,000 Negroes said he would "not go" along with a national economic boycott. Powell replied immediately that he had not intended a work stoppage but that he was "interested in prayer only."

So the boycott has raged for 16 weeks without noticeable violence on either side. Montgomery has become the center of political battles on local, state and national levels. It has been the congregating place for more than 50 newsmen from all over the globe.

The 16-week-old battle will reach its first climax in court tomorrow

SEGREGATION LAWS MADE TARGET

3-Judge Court Named To Hear Attacks On Acts

By CHARLES SULLIVAN

U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Richard T. Rives of Montgomery and U. S. District Judge Seybourn H. Lynne of Birmingham will be members of a three-judge court to hear a case attacking the constitutionality of local and state laws requiring racial segregation on public transportation.

Judge Joseph C. Hutcheson Jr., presiding judge of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, fifth circuit recently designated the two federal jurists to rule on the case along with U. S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr., of Montgomery.

Five Montgomery Negro women filed a federal suit here asking that Montgomery city ordinances and Alabama state statutes requiring racial segregation on public conveyances be declared unconstitutional. The suit, entered on Feb. 1 by Negro attorneys Fed D. Gray and Charles Langford, claimed that local and state transportation segregation laws violated rights guaranteed the Negroes under the 14th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.

Named as defendants in the original suit were Montgomery City Commission members W. A. Gayle, Frank Parks, and Clyde Sellers, along with Police Chief G. J. Ruppenthal, Montgomery City Lines Bus Company, and two bus drivers — James F. Blake and Robert Cleere.

No date has been set for hearing the case.

Some 20 days after the Negroes filed suit, attorneys for the city and the bus company filed answers denying most of the Negroes' allegations and asking dismissal of the suit. On March 8, Attorneys Gray and Langford filed an amended complaint in U. S. District Court here dropping the name of Jeanetta Reese, as one of the plaintiffs and adding the three members of the Alabama Public Service Commission as defendants.

The Reese woman had told city officials that she did not consent to having her name placed on the federal suit filed on Feb. 1. An unlawful practice charge against Atty. Gray for allegedly representing a person in legal action without consent was dropped in Circuit Court here for lack of jurisdiction. U.S. District Attorney Hartwell Davis has said that he had the unlawful practice charges against Gray "under consideration," and had "no comment" today.

Attorneys for the city, bus company and new defendants C. C. Owens, Jimmie Hitchcock, and Sibyl Pool of the Alabama P.S.C. have until March 30 to file an answer to the amended complaint.

Judge Johnson is automatically a member of the three-judge court because the suit was filed in the district where he presides.

Alabama Journal
Montgomery, Alabama
Date 3-19-56
Page 1

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/23/83 BY Sp3ck/ycl

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-1

Judge Carter opened court with a stern warning against spectators talking during the trial and cautioned them. "If you came here to be entertained you're in the wrong place."

Only a few white men were in the courtroom and most of them were newspaper reporters or witnesses. The rest of the crowd were Negroes.

Twenty-five Negro ministers and 68 other members of their race were called to trial for the prolonged mass Negro boycott of Montgomery City Lines Buses.

CORRIDORS JAMMED

Long before the court was called to order, Negroes jammed the corridor and stairs leading to the second-floor courtroom.

The defendants had eight Negro attorneys, including Robert Carter of New York, a member of the legal staff of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People.

Also present as an "interested spectator" was Negro Congressman Charles C. Diggs Jr. (D-Mich.) Diggs said he came here to watch the proceedings and also to bring a "substantial sum of money" contributed by residents of Detroit to support the protest against bus segregation. He said it was more than \$5,000.

With Diggs was his legal adviser, Basil W. Brown of Detroit.

Ironically, the light-skinned Brown had to identify himself as a Negro before Bailiff Addie Mosley would permit him to sit next to his employer in the segregated courtroom.

RULES ON PETITION

Before the trials could proceed, Judge Carter had to rule on a defense petition attacking validity of the anti-boycotting indictments returned by a grand jury Feb. 21.

Negro attorneys filed pre-trial demurrers protesting that the prosecution under a seldom-used state law violates the defendant's rights of free speech, freedom of worship and peaceful assembly, under the law as guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution.

A demurrer is a legal device which argues simply that no unlawful offense has been committed.

POSSIBLE APPEAL

By raising the question of constitutional rights, the defense lawyers built the framework for a possible appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court if the boycotting Negroes are convicted. But they declined to comment on their plans before the trials opened.

The anti-boycotting law, enacted in 1921 as a weapon against labor strife, prohibits any conspiracy or agreement to hinder the operation of a lawful business "without just cause or legal excuse." The grand jury said the bus boycott is illegal.

Maximum penalty for violating the seldom-used law is six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

The indicted Negroes have

waived the right of jury trial, electing instead to let the trial judge decide their guilt or innocence. Fred D. Gray of Montgomery, one of the Negro attorneys, declined to say why they chose that course.

The Rev. Robert S. Graetz, white pastor of an all-Negro church who has attended some of the boycott rallies, is one of 77 witnesses subpoenaed for the trials. Graetz also testified before the investigating grand jury.

Also summoned for testimony are Mayor W. A. Gayle and Police Commissioner Clyde Sellers, two of Montgomery's three city commissioners who have publicly affiliated with the pro-segregation Montgomery County Citizens Council since the boycott began.

After unsuccessful efforts to settle the bus dispute, the mayor issued a stern statement urging white residents to refrain from giving rides to any Negro.

The boycotting Negroes have relied chiefly, however, on a car pool of 50 to 350 automobiles which has replaced the buses as a means of getting to and from work. Some of the Negroes under indictment are drivers of the motor pool cars.

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE _____ BY _____~~

'SIGNIFICANT' ASSIGNMENT

Reporter Here For Boycott Trials Says Movement Confuses French

A French newspaper correspondent who arrived here yesterday to "bone up" on the Negro bus boycott before covering the trials tomorrow, said that in France people have gone to jail for just walking.

The reporter, Daniel Morgaine, U.S. correspondent of France-Soir, which has a circulation of one and a half million, said that in France the boycott proceedings are considered "much more important" than the Aurtherine Lucy or Emmett Till cases because this is "not a case but a social movement."

ECONOMIC CASE

The boycott will have more consequence in the Negro's cause than the legal cases because it may have an effect of tremendous pressure, he said.

Morgaine said that in France there is no segregation and that integration is practiced completely. He added there are Negroes in the French Senate.

"We think the boycott is big because 40,000 to 50,000 Negroes have refused to obey the South's law. It is a big story on the continent," he added.

SIGNIFICANT ASSIGNMENT

Morgaine said that he had been a reporter for 10 years and had served as a London correspondent. His coverage of the boycott is significantly shown by the other stories his newspaper has assigned him to cover. They include President Eisenhower's illness, the Sam Sheppard murder case, United Nations, and other top stories.

He said that he had not expected any trouble in Montgomery because this a passive — "a religious" — movement but he had heard of trouble in Tuscaloosa and Birmingham due to the Lucy case.



MORGAINE
Bones Up On Boycott

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Alabama
Date 3-18-56
Page 8 B

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/23/83 BY SP3 def/jed

ENCLOSURE

MARCH 26, 1956

URGENT

SAC, MOBILE

PRACON

RACIAL SITUATION, PENSACOLA, FLORIDA. WASHINGTON PAPERS REFLECT TWO WHITE MEN BEATEN BY MOB OF NEGROES AT PENSACOLA, FLORIDA, ON MARCH TWENTYFIVE, AFTER ONE WHITE MAN, JOHNNIE J. MALOY, HAD ACCUSED A NEGRO OF STEALING CRATE OF ORANGES FROM MALOY'S TRUCK, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, TWO INDIVIDUALS HOSPITALIZED AND TWO OTHERS ARRESTED. MALOY ALLEGEDLY FIRED A GUN WOUNDING FOSTER KING, A NEGRO, AND GUN TAKEN FROM MALOY BY LOVE ANDREWS, A NEGRO. MALOY ALLEGEDLY ACCOMPANIED BY HILLARY CALHOUN, WHITE, OF PENSACOLA. ADVISE BY RETURN TEL DETAILS REGARDING THIS SITUATION AND ANY INFORMATION AS TO ACTION TAKEN BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND ANY INDICATION THAT RETALIATORY ACTION MAY BE TAKEN BY WHITE PERSONS.

HOOVER

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/23/83 BY sp3 cle/gcl

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

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

MAR 26 1956

TELETYPE

MAR 29 1956

EX-25
RECORDED

MAR 27 11 13 AM '56

100-135-61-9

MAR 27 1956

13-00800

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MAR 27 10 23 AM '56

REC'D TELETYPE UNIT

MAR 27 1956

REC'D TELETYPE UNIT

MAR 27 1956

REC'D TELETYPE UNIT

MAR 27 1956

REC'D TELETYPE UNIT

MAR 27 1956

FBI

Date: 3/23/56

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
AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, Mobile

To: Director, FBI

RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
IS - SWP

CRACON

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/23/83 BY sp3 clj/jcl

Remytel 3/19/56; Cleveland airtel to Bureau, 3/15/56.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated also that he learned from other unidentified Negro persons that while [REDACTED] was in Montgomery during the past week, that he recruited some SWP members from among the Negroes. No one was specifically identified in regard to this matter.

[REDACTED] that he was making a contribution to the Montgomery Improvement Association, but did not specify the size of the contribution.

Mobile will attempt to identify the alleged SWP recruits allegedly recruited [REDACTED] and will attempt to

④ - Bureau (100-135-61) (AM-REGISTERED)

2 - Mobile (44-439) (cc 100-110)

[REDACTED] ma

(6)

[REDACTED]

EX - 108

RECORDED - 4

Mr. Belmont

17 MAR 26 1956

100-135-61-91

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FILED IN 100-135-61-91

FD-36 (6-21-55)

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following message via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC,

To:

7C

PAGE TWO

ascertain additional information concerning [REDACTED]

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7D

[REDACTED]

HALLFORD

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

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

MAR 21 1956

TELETYPE

FBI, MOBILE

3-21-56

6-19 PM

DIRECTOR, FBI

URGENT

RACIAL CONDITIONS
RACON. REBUTEL TO ATLANTA, MOBILE AND BHAM FIFTH INSTANT.

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	

ADVISED

NINETEENTH INSTANT

INFORMED HIM FIFTEENTH INSTANT NEGRO

PURCHASED CARTON TWENTYTWO CALIBER PISTOL

AMMUNITION AND ALL OTHER PISTOL AMMUNITION

AND NEGRO REQUESTED IF HE HAD ANY LUGER AMMUNITION

TOLD HE HAD LEARNED A NEGRO HAD GONE TO

AND HAD BOUGHT

UP ALL EXISTING PISTOL AMMUNITION IN STOCK THERE. ALLEN

IS SMALL RURAL COMMUNITY AND FOR APPROXIMATELY PAST WEEK

A ROAD WORK GANG FOR SOUTHERN RR HAVE BEEN STAYIN IN ALLEN

ON RAILROAD CARS. MOST OF GANG CONSISTED ENTIRELY OF

NEGROES AND GANG IS FROM SELMA, ALABAMA. FOR INFO BUREAU.

HALLFORD

RECORDED - 60

CORRECT LINE EIGHT FIRST WD ON BE TOLD

CORRECT LINE SEVEN NINE FIRST WD ON BE

END AND ACK PLS

WA 7-22 PM OK FBI VA LO

MIN PLS

OK EDNXXX END PLS

MR. BELMONT
AND SUPERVISOR
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

TU DIS

66 MLD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY SP3/STP/CL

100-135-61-92

REC'D - FBI
MAR 29 1956

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Article
Mobile
March 23-27-56

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. L. V. Boardman *lvb*

DATE: March 27, 1956

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
STATE OF ALABAMA
Bufile 100-135-61

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

The attached teletype from the Mobile Office dated March 21, 1956, states

[redacted] advised March 19, 1956, that

[redacted] informed him on March 15, 1956, a Negro purchased [redacted] a carton of .22 caliber pistol ammunition and all other pistol ammunition. The Negro also requested if [redacted] had any Luger ammunition.

[redacted] also told the [redacted] he had learned a Negro had gone to [redacted] and had bought all existing pistol ammunition in stock [redacted]

Allen is small rural community and a road-work gang of the Southern Railroad has been staying in Allen on railroad cars. The gang, composed entirely of Negroes is reportedly from Selma, Alabama.

The above data was disseminated to the Department and interested intelligence agencies by memorandum dated March 22, 1956; however, the attached teletype does not state how much ammunition was purchased, the identities of the Negroes who bought it or what was done with it.

OBSERVATION:

It is believed a discreet check should be made by the Mobile Office to obtain any additional details concerning this matter.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the attached airtel be sent to Mobile Office.

Enclosure

cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. [redacted]

alf:mag (4)

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3 clj/pc

RECORDED - 8
100-135-61-93
MAR 29 1956

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3-27-56

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

MAR 16 1956

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Boardman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Braden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Parsons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tamm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Winterrowd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Holloman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

FBI, MOBILE

3-16-56

7-47 PM

NPO

DIRECTOR, FBI

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

RACONE - Mobile

RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE ASSOCIATED

CITIZENS COUNCIL OF ALA. WILL ANNOUNCE FOLLOWING ACTION.,
QUESTIONNAIRES WILL BE CIRCULATED TO ALL FACULTY MEMBERS OF WHITE
COLLEGES IN ALA. TO ASCERTAIN VIEWS OF EACH ON INTEGRATION.,
RESULTS WILL BE PUBLISHED TO ACQUANT PARENTS OF STUDENTS AT
SUCH COLLEGES.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

HALLFORD

END AND ACK PLS

RECORDED - 124

100-135-61-94

WA M8-50 PM OK FBI WA LO

16 MAR 27 1956

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Belmont

Let to G-2, ONI, OST
Tompkins & Alnow

3-22-56

7C

7C

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

cc - Liaison

7C

RECORDED - 124

100-135-61-94

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3 def/gcl

Date: March 22, 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

[REDACTED]

the Associated Citizens Council of Alabama would announce
the following action:

Questionnaires would be circulated to all faculty
members of white colleges in Alabama to determine the views
of each on integration, results of which would be published
for the information of the parents of the students at such
colleges.

[REDACTED]

The FBI has previously made available to you
copies of reports concerning the activities of the Citizens
Councils of Alabama. The latter may be identical with the
Associated Citizens Council of Alabama referred to above.

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

7D

BY COURIER ENCL.
COMM - FBI
MAR 23 1956
MAILED 31


Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____

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

NOTE ON YELLOW:



7D

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

- Deleted under exemption(s) b1, b7c 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:
 100-135-61-95

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b1

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

A copy of "The Militant" enclosed for Mobile.

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

KELLY

cc mw [REDACTED]
7c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

cc on Section

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

7c

100-135-61

RECORDED-41

100-135-61-95

Classified by *sp3 clj/gcl*
Declassify on: OADR 3/24/83

Date: March 23, 1956

EX-121

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

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE *3/12/56*

Reference is made to my memorandum dated
March 23, 1956, concerning the presence of certain
members of the Socialist Workers Party, an organization
cited by the Attorney General under Executive Order
10450, in Montgomery, Alabama, in connection with the
boycott of the city buses in that city by Negroes.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/11/91 BY
SP-10 JTB/MSK

b1

BY COURIER SVC.
7 2 MAR 26
COMM-FBI

[REDACTED]

FBI
MAR 26 1956
MAILED 20

[REDACTED]

ABW
FYB
WST

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

cc - Mobile (Information) (44-439 - Racial Situation Montgomery)

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

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

71 APR 3 1956

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WST *WST*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

b1
|

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

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

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FBI

Date: 3/26/56

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

REGISTERED

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, Detroit (100-25025)

To: Director, FBI

RACIAL SITUATION ORACON - MOBILE

DAYLET. The 3/25/56 edition of the "Michigan Edition - The Worker," page 16, columns 3 and 4, carries an article captioned "Local Send \$s to Alabama." Instant article reads as follows:

"Detroit - Dodge, Plymouth, and Ford Rouge locals of the UAW have all pledged economic aid to the heroic bus boycotters in Montgomery, Ala. The resolutions, a gesture of solidarity, were adopted by members either in local meetings or delegated council bodies. Ford Local 600 on March 28 will have a plant-wide collection, the proceeds of which will go to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In Chicago, UAW locals have sent \$2000 to back up the Southern people's struggle. The idea for this campaign in Chicago was sparked by HILLIARD ELLIS, Local 453, UAW organizer. ELLIS said the response 'was terrific; in one plant where 26 of the 33 workers are white Southerners everyone gave.'"

BROWN

- 4 - Bureau REGISTERED
(1 - 61-3176)
- 1 - Chicago REGISTERED
(1 - 100- RACIAL SITUATION)
- 1 - Mobile (Info.) REGISTERED
(100- RACIAL SITUATION)
- 4 - Detroit (1 - 100-25025)
(1 - 100-6075 COMINFIL UAW-CIO)
(1 - 100-3348 NAACP)
(1 - 100-19944 DAYLET)

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED - 17

EX - 121

25 MAR 27 1956

AIRTEL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

63 APR 13 1956

DATE 3/24/83

BY 3/cl/gal

Approved: _____

Sent _____

CENTRAL RESEARCH

100-135-61-96

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

DATE: 3/23/56

FROM : SAC, Dallas (100-9990)

Classified by: 43 de/gcl

Declassify on: OADR

3/24/83

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Racial

Mobile

Re: Mobile airtel to the Bureau, 3/3/56.

7D

[Redacted block]

The informants contacted are as follows:

b1 (c)

[Redacted block]

The indices of the Dallas Office reflect no information of value in identifying [Redacted]

7C
7/12/83

The Dallas Office will be alert for information indicating that Communist Party members or members of related groups may plan trips to Alabama, during racial disturbances there, as requested in referenced airtel.

RUC.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

- 2 - Bureau (100-135-61) (Registered Mail)
- 2 - Mobile (44-439) (Registered Mail)
- 1 - Dallas (100-9990)

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RECORDED - 19

100-135-61-97
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EX-103

MAR 2 1956

52 MAR 30 1956

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3/27/56

AIR-TEL

RM

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

NEW YORK (100-4013)

BUREAU (100-16)

SWP, IS - SWP

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Mobile

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(c) [REDACTED]

"New York Times" of 3/26/56 on page 27 reported speech by Rev. KING at Concord Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY, 3/25/56 setting forth that unsuccessful attempts made to sell "The Militant" outside the church. Boston include Mobile in dissemination any additional information received. re activities SWP leadership in Montgomery.

KELLY

Classified by sp3 de/fcl
Declassify on: OADR 3/24/83

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

- 4 - Bureau (100-16) (RM)
- ① - Bufile 100-135-61 RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALA.)
- 1 - Boston (100-442) (SWP) (RM)
- 2 - Mobile (SWP) (Enc.) (RM)
 - (1 - 44-439 RACIAL SITUATION - MONTGOMERY)
- 1 - NY (100-128214) (RACIAL SITUATION) (7-2)
- 1 - NY [REDACTED] (7-3)
- 1 - NY (100-4013)

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JK (#7-3)
(11)

100-135-61- ✓

124
53 APR 3 1956

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NOT RECORDED
164 MAR 30 1956

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: 3/23/56

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Mobile
RACON - MOBILE
SUBJECT: RACIAL CONDITIONS IN STATE OF FLORIDA

As of possible interest to the Bureau, I am attaching one copy each of the following newspaper items:

1. Item appearing in The Florida-Times Union, Jacksonville, Florida, 3/22/56 captioned "PRESIDENT ASKED TO CALL PARLEY OF DIXIE LEADERS."

2. Item appearing in The Florida-Times Union, Jacksonville, Florida, 3/21/56, captioned "KEEP-SEGREGATION PARLEY SET TODAY."

- 2 - Bureau (Encl. 2)
- 1 - Mobile (44-00-A)
- lo
- (3)

ENCLOSURE 84

~~EXT. PROC~~

RECORDED - 84 100-135-61-100-135-61

MAR 29 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3cl/gcl

66 APR 2 1956

INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION - FBI

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MOMENTOUS MEETING

Keep-Segregation Parley Set Today

By HERBERT CAMERON
Times-Union Capitol Correspondent

TALLAHASSEE, March 20—One of the most momentous conferences in the state's history will be conducted in Tallahassee at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow for the purpose of setting in motion some plan to maintain segregation at all levels in Florida.

The highest state officials and Board of Control members will be joined by the presidents of the State School Superintendent and County School Board Assns. and Florida legislators in seeking a defense against integration.

Spurred by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision ordering the University of Florida law college opened immediately to Virgil Hawkins, Daytona Beach Negro, state officials called the conference. It will be held in the Cabinet room, but if the crowd is large may be shifted to one of the legislative conference rooms.

At present, only one new proposal has been made public. Rep. Kenneth Ballinger of Tallahassee suggested a special session of the Legislature to consider an emergency constitutional amendment which would give the governor sole authority over enrollment regula-

tions at the three state universities and six junior colleges.

Immune to Contempt Writ
Ballinger said such authority should be invested in the governor since he is the only state administrative officer who has immunity to a Supreme Court contempt citation.

Gov. LeRoy Collins has questioned whether such authority should be invested in one official. He said he felt there probably were other legal steps that could be taken to block integration in Florida.

The state, through Atty. Gen. Richard W. Ervin and Asst. Atty. Gen. Ralph Odum, will ask the U.S. court for an opportunity to present the state's side of the case in the Hawkins decision. The state has 25 days from the date the decision was rendered to file a petition for a hearing.

Ervin has stated that the Ballinger amendment plan has some merit and should be considered. He plans to submit it to the conference tomorrow.

May Submit Proposals

Collins has indicated he probably will offer a plan or plans as the defense for the state against desegregation.

Meanwhile, the State Board of Control has moved to tighten entrance regulations at the three universities as a defense against integration.

The 1955 Legislature passed a bill introduced by State Sen. Charley E. Johns of Starke that gives local school authorities power of assignment of enrollment. It was patented after a North Carolina act which has been held constitutional by a federal district court of appeals.

The bill is seen as a block against integration in the public schools for some years to come.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3cl/pjcl

THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
MARCH 21, 1956

Re: RACIAL CONDITIONS IN
STATE OF FLORIDA
Mofile 44-00-A

ENCLOSURE

ON INTEGRATION QUESTION

President Asked to Call Parley of Dixie Leaders

By HERBERT CAMERON
Times-Union Capitol Correspondent

TALLAHASSEE, March 21—A conference of Florida's highest officials, educators and legislators called on President Eisenhower today to call an immediate meeting of Southern governors and attorneys general in an effort to work out the problems arising from the U.S. Supreme Court desegregation edicts.

The conference also authorized Gov. LeRoy Collins and Atty. Gen. Richard W. Ervin to appoint a committee of leading constitutional lawyers and retired circuit judges to assist in drawing up a program that would be most effective legally in blocking integration in Florida.

After the committee has analyzed all proposals in the fight against desegregation in the state's universities, the program would be submitted to the committee as a whole. This group is made up of the governor, members of the Cabinet, Board of Control, president of the Senate and speaker of the House, presidents of the Florida School Board and County School Superintendents Assns., members of the Education Committees of the House and Senate, and presidents of the three universities.

Wants Firm Program

Collins said he would not call a special session of the Legislature to take up the question of integration until a firm program has been drawn and he had assurance such a program would be acceptable to the Legislature.

"I don't want any long, drawn-out session," he stated.

The governor said he would not call such a special session in any event until sometime during the summer. The Legislature is scheduled to meet June 4 to resume its reapportionment debate.

Other recommendations adopted were:

1. Resolution calling on the U. S.

to moral scrutiny under the regulations adopted today by the Board of Control.

The board's action also tightens the scholastic ratings that must be made by students seeking admission from high schools. This was seen as another way against Negroes entering the state's two white universities.

The governor read a prepared statement at the opening of the conference in which he stated he has recognized in recent weeks "a dangerous deterioration in our racial relations generally. Many times as much newspaper copy has been devoted to racial outbursts since the campaign began as to all other issues combined."

Collins warned that it is possible to lose the progress made during recent years in establishing a better relationship between the whites and Negroes "as a disastrous by-product of the segregation fight."

Danger Signs Noted

The governor cited the fact that since segregation has become an issue in the campaign white citizens of Tallahassee have stopped attending vesper services conducted by the Florida A&M University choir due to a "fear of being labelled integrationists."

He said the practice of sheriffs employing Negro officers is being condemned and that the "radicals and extremists are further criticizing the members of the Board

... They show the incentive results when our people are pulled by one side or the other into fighting pits of the extremists. But I believe the great masses of the people of Florida, white and Negro, do not want to be extremists."

Atty. Gen. Ervin reviewed the Hawkins case through the recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court and said he felt the Board of Control should continue its survey to get statewide reaction to integration.

Feels Authority Present

Board of Control Chairman Kent said he felt that Collins already has the authority to move in on admissions to the state's universities and suggested that the attorney general ask the Florida Supreme Court for an opinion. No action was taken on the proposal.

Rep. Sam M. Gibbons of Tampa, chairman of the House Committee on Higher Education, proposed that a special session not be held before the middle of July. He said legislators would have a chance by then to study any program offered to block integration.

Secretary of State R. A. Gray said the conference should urge Collins to appear before the U.S. Supreme Court and also that immediate steps should be taken to keep segregation.

J. Lewis Hall, Tallahassee attorney, and Leon County Rep. Kenneth Ballinger explained the proposal for a special session to ap-

IDA TIMES-UNION

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

MARCH 22, 1956

Re: RACIAL CONDITIONS IN
STATE OF FLORIDA
Mofile 44-00-A

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY [signature]

ENCLOSURE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

0-9

cc - Boardman
Belmont

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION. MARCH 27, 1956

AIRTEL

Transmit the following message SAC, MOBILE

7C

DRACON
RACIAL SITUATION, STATE OF ALABAMA. Reurtel March 21, 1956.

You are instructed to make a discreet check through

_____ and other reliable sources to obtain additional pertinent details, if possible, regarding quantity of ammunition purchased by Negroes in Allen, identities of individuals who made purchase and disposition of same.

Sumirtel results of inquiry.

HOOVER

100-135-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY 673 dcl/gcl

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Attachment to memorandum A. H. Belmont to L. V. Boardman dated March 27, 1956, same caption, *dlf:mag.*

MAR 27 5 04 PM '56
RECEIVED RECORDS ROOM
FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECORDED - 99

EX-121 100-135-61
17 MAR 29 1956

COMM - FBI
MAR 27 1956
MAILED 31

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

58 APR 2 1956

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cc Liaison Section
Mr. [REDACTED]

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

100-133-61

Date: March 27, 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 —
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

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COMM - FBI
MAR 27 1956
MAILED 31

advised that he did not anticipate any racial riot as a result of this incident and stated, in his opinion, it was merely a fight which occurred as a result of the theft of the oranges.

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

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)

53 APR 2 1956

EX-100
COMM - FBI
75 MAR 28 1956
INDEXED - 93
RECORDED - 93
11 MAR 29 1956

mag
(9) mag

100-133-61-100

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

**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 1
4th and Adams Drive, N. W.
Washington, D. C.**

NOTE ON YELLOW:

**Original of teletype not available at time
of dictation.**

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI
FROM : SAC, Mobile
SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DATE: 3/22/56

RACIA

As of possible interest to the Bureau, attached hereto are two copies of an item appearing in the Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, 3/21/56, captioned "STATE HEADING TOWARD CLOSE IN KING CASE."

ENCLOSURE

- 2 - Bureau (Encl. 2) (100-135-61) (AM)
- 1 - Mobile (44-439)
- lo
- (3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY 473 djk/ek

RECORDED - 200

RECORDED-18
EX-121

MAR 29 1956

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3-29-56
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[Redacted signature]

State Heading Toward Close In King Case

Prosecutors Attempt
To Show Conspiracy
Behind Bus Boycott

By TOM JOHNSON
And FRANK McARDLE

The state yesterday continued a battle to link the Rev. M. L. King, Montgomery Negro minister to the bus boycott and to establish a conspiracy to boycott the bus lines.

A final round of state witnesses is on the agenda for early this morning before Negro defense lawyers take over.

As the state hammered on the violence which has erupted in the boycott, a Negro woman Beatrice Jackson, 1501 W Fifth St., testified a Negro man, identified only as "Sheet," warned her to stay off the buses and then hit and cut her.

HELD AS WITNESS

The woman was held as a witness after defense attorneys asked that the man who hit and cut her be brought into court.

Another Negro Willie C Carter, told of threats because he had ridden the buses of the Montgomery City Lines but Judge Carter ordered the testimony thrown out because no connection was shown between the incident and the Montgomery Improvement Assn., sponsors of the boycott.

K. W. Jones, a city detective assigned to the circuit solicitor's office, told of the car pool organization of the MIA and named several people who had operated cars for the improvement association. These included Fletcher Smith, Burr McEverhart, W. H. Johnson, Mathew Kennedy, Walter Smith and the Rev. S. Heard. He named the North McDonough, Monroe Street parking lot, Maxwell's main gate and the Holt Street Baptist Church as pickup points.

RIGHTS QUESTIONED

Defense attorneys questioned the detective's rights to stop cars and his activities in the investigation. Jones told them he had examined bank records of the group under a subpoena of the circuit solicitor.

Testifying their buses had been hit by thrown objects or gunfire were George Henderson, J. B. Gardner, C. A. Bedsole and A. E. Beasley, all Montgomery City Lines bus drivers. Henderson said his bus was shot at six times and hit twice in Washington Park Dec. 6. Gardner said a bullet was fired at his bus in Boylston Negro section. Bedsole said a brick was thrown through a bus window Dec. 8 in Washington Heights. Beasley said a rock was thrown at his bus Dec. 10 on the Boylston route.

Arnell, city editor of The Advertiser, testified he had covered the boycott from its inception and, making references to stories he had written, told of statements and incidents. He testified he was present when Negroes voted to

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Alabama
Date 3-21-56
Page 1-A

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3ck/jcl

100-135-61-101
ENCLOSURE

approve a resolution to continue the bus boycott on Dec. 5 at the Holt street church. He also told of the first buses being boycotted on the morning of Dec. 5. On

(Continued From Page 1-A)

cross examination by Negro attorneys, he said he had not been threatened at any meetings.

He added that when a Negro group of 100 became angry following a bombing at the home of the Rev. King, the minister came out on the porch and appealed to the group to leave and "not get panicky and not to get your weapons." He said in all meetings he had covered there had been appeals for non violence sounded.

Earlier witnesses testified the Montgomery Improvement Assn. which was organized on the day the boycott began, arranged the agenda of the first mass meeting and later handled the funds to support the boycott.

Judge Carter at one point indicated that the state's task for the remainder of the trial is not to show that a conspiracy existed but to link it with King.

CASE ESTABLISHED

"A prima facie case of conspiracy has been established," Judge Carter said.

As on the first day, the state often had difficulty yesterday with its own witnesses, supposedly but actually closer to "hostile" at times.

Many of these witnesses have been prominent figures in the boycott movement who might have been subject to indictment themselves had the state not elected to use them as witnesses.

Most of them testified grudgingly.

One of the most difficult for the state was another of its own witnesses, the Rev. U. J. Fields, pastor of Bell Street Baptist Church.

Fields, an evasive young Negro with a mustache and a wisp of a goatee gave answers which at one point drew an admonition from Judge Carter.

Admitting that he had attended several mass meetings, Fields insisted he could not recall if the bus boycott had ever been discussed.

Deputy Solicitor Robert B. Stewart asked Judge Carter to declare Fields a "hostile witness," a move that would have given the state the right to challenge the truthfulness of its own witness.

Instead, the judge admonished Fields to "tell the truth" about cussed at the meetings.

"You know whether it was or not," he said. "Now tell the truth."

I DON'T SWEAR

Fields, when first called as a witness, refused to swear, to the customary witness oath, saying, "I don't swear. It's against my religious convictions." But he promised to tell the truth and the judge accepted that.

Fields, as secretary of the improvement association, kept minutes of the organizational meeting on the afternoon of Dec. 5, but balked at answering questions about subjects not covered in the minutes.

Asked how he was informed there was to be a meeting, Fields said he received a phone call from an unknown person. He said he did not recall who presided at the group.

He also professed not to know the purpose of the meeting.

He said his minutes did show the election of officers including King as president, and the appointment of a resolutions committee, including a man named Gray. Fields said he could not say whether that was Atty Fred D. Gray, one of the defense witnesses.

He was questioned about the words "transportation committee" which appeared in his minutes. "The words don't make sense to me now," he testified.

He said he could not recall

whether the boycott was discussed at the first meeting of the improvement association, which grew out of a meeting of the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance, a group of Negro clergymen.

The state attempted to show that the resolutions read at the first mass meeting at the Holt Street Baptist Church on the night of Dec. 5 were prepared during the afternoon of that day by a committee of the association.

Fields was asked who prepared the agenda of the mass meeting. He replied: "Memory does not serve me well enough to answer."

He gave the same reply when asked if the agenda was put together during the afternoon before the meeting.

Fields did admit that he testified before the grand jury that an agreement was reached at the afternoon session to continue the boycott until "conditions improve."

(Negro leaders have maintained the boycott was continued indefinitely because of the "spontaneous" mood of the crowd at the meeting which followed the afternoon session.)

Ratus Lewis, chairman of a transportation committee appointed by the improvement association, described in detail how protesting Negroes have been transported during the boycott.

He said approximately 43 pickup and dispatch stations were set up to accommodate persons who couldn't get transportation otherwise. About 200 private cars are used he said, and drivers are paid \$4 a day.

Lewis was asked if the improvement association had done anything besides promoting the boycott. He answered "yes" and mentioned that committees on registration and voting and on establishing a bank had been appointed by the association.

"Were all the committees set up after the indictments?" he was asked.

"I don't think so," said Lewis. He answered "yes" when asked if Negroes had been urged not to ride the buses at the mass meeting.

The state called the operators of several service stations which the association arranged

Among them were John L. Oliver operator of a station at 772 Holt St; Joe Foster of Darby Service Station; Hezekiah Nunn of Day St Service Station; and D W Williams.

All of them testified they were approached by a committee of "two or three," were told to sell gas to certain drivers and to take the drivers' tag numbers for identification.

All but Williams said they had never before seen the committee. Williams testified one of the men who approached him was the Rev. W. J. Powell, one of the indicted ministers.

The service station operators said they were paid every "two or three days."

Erna Dungee, financial secretary of the improvement association who was first called as a witness Monday, concluded her testimony yesterday morning

Like many of the other witnesses she professed not to know many of the details of the organization, including its financial status.

She said she didn't know the present bank balance of the improvement association, either in Montgomery or Atlanta where the group also has an account. To the questions on finances she gave such answers as "I have no idea," "I don't remember," "I don't know" and "I can't tell you that."

She said the headquarters of the improvement association is now at the Citizens Club, where it was moved from the Alabama Negro Baptist Center.

The woman said the association has performed no direct function besides supporting the bus boycott and has sent no money "directly" for any other purpose.

Dr. Henry Parker, pastor of First Baptist Church and chairman of a city-appointed race relations committee which studied the boycott, was the last witness to appear for the state yesterday.

Dr. Parker, appointed to the committee by Mayor W. A. Gayle, said the purpose of the group was to bring about a "peaceful settlement" of the boycott. However, he pointed out that two sessions of the group had yielded no appreciable results and that meetings were discontinued.

The minister cited the "demands" as set forth by Negro members of the committee which he said included (1) courtesy of bus drivers, (2) seating in city buses on a "first-come, first-serve" basis and (3) the employment of Negro drivers for routes.

Principal matter of business at the two sessions was discussion of seating arrangements, Dr. Parker said, although some agreement was reached on the "courtesy" clause.

Asked by Solicitor Thetford if any concessions were made by the Negro members at the meetings, the minister said "no specific ones" were reached.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 3/22/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY SP3 CLK/jcl

I am transmitting herewith two copies each of the following newspaper items which pertain to captioned matter:

1. Item appearing in the Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, 3/20/56, captioned "SOCIALIST LEADER COVERING MONTGOMERY BOYCOTT TRIALS."
2. Item appearing in the Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, 3/20/56, captioned "SCORE OF NEWSMEN FLOCK TO BOYCOTT TRIALS."
3. Item appearing in the Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, 3/20/56, captioned "NEGRO CONGRESSMAN ATTENDING TRIAL HERE; RAPS SEGREGATION."
4. Item appearing in the Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, 3/20/56, captioned "RECORDS OF ASSOCIATION REVEAL THOUSANDS SPENT TO SUPPORT BUS BOYCOTT."

ENCLOSURE

- 2 - Bureau (Encl. (8) (100-135-61) (AM))
- 2 - Mobile (44-439) (100-110)

7C

EX-108

1cc gend to Olney
1 photo gend to Douglas
3-22-56
[Redacted]

RECORDED - 77 100-135-61-102
MAR 20 1956
EX-108

MAR 20 10 33 AM '56

517K1-D 552
APR 4 '56

[Redacted]

Socialist Leader Covering Montgomery Boycott Trials

By JOE AZBELL
Advertiser City Editor

A revolutionary socialist whose political party is a splinter of the old Third International Communist movement is covering the Negro boycott trials here.

He is Farrell Dobbs, New York, who was a candidate for president of the United States in 1948 and 1952 on the Socialist Workers Party ticket. He is covering the trials for Militant, a labor weekly.

Dobbs, who has been connected with the Socialist Workers Party for 22 years is currently secretary of the organization. The party is a splinter of the old Third International following a break between Trotsky and Stalin. Dobbs' party, while admitting it has a revolutionary purpose in establishing a socialist government in the United States, is opposed to the old Stalin brand of socialism or the Russian brand of today.

In the Attorney General's list but added that the recent case of James Kutcher, a legless veteran who was a party member, has thrown new light on this listing. Kutcher's pension as a veteran was withdrawn because of his party membership but later was reinstated after a hearing of VA officials. Dobbs said his group had sought hearings to deny the tag of "subversive" but these requests had been turned down.

The 48-year-old Dobbs, who is married and the father of three daughters, said his group does not advocate violence but does advocate a revolutionary method of seeking to secure a majority vote to support a socialist system of government in this country.

The Socialist Workers Party was organized along the ideas of Trotsky who broke with Stalin and, as Dobbs puts it, "was assassinated by one of Stalin's hatchet men."

Dobbs, an easy going, pleasant man with an appealing personality, said that he had come to Montgomery to cover the boycott trials because the trials were of interest from a "democratic viewpoint."



FARRELL DOBBS

"I believe that (the Negroes') demands are democratic and certainly they are entitled to full equality as citizens," he said. "I am interested in the trials because of the demand for democratic rights which our group adheres to strongly."

When asked by another person if he was sympathetic to the south's position in its racial problem, Dobbs said that while he could understand a problem existed, he could not sympathize with it because it was "wrong for a person to keep his foot on another person's head in a democracy and prevent that person from achieving his democratic rights."

Dobbs entered the courtroom quietly and took his seat with other reporters. He covered the hearings attentively and showed particular interest in the activities of the attorneys, as they exchange legal words.

In an interview, Dobbs emphasized that the Socialist Workers Party is "anti-Stalinist" and that Russian communists had opposed his organization.

He said that his group was formed because Trotsky who with Lenin was one of the prime movers of the communist revolution in Russia desired to create a world socialist movement while Stalin desired to create a socialist movement within a nation first.

Following a conflict between Stalin and Trotsky, Trotsky moved from one country to another, finally ending up in Mexico where he was assassinated in 1940.

Before Trotsky was assassinated, Dobbs had visited the political figure in Mexico.

In his race for president in 1952 Dobbs received 10,306 votes. His largest vote was in New Jersey where he polled 3,850 votes and in New York where he received 2,212 votes but he was on the ballot on Wisconsin, Washington, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Michigan.

He said that "roughly there are about 25,000 supporters of the Socialist Workers Party" in this country.

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Alabama
Date 3-20-56
Page 1-A

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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DATE 3/24/83

BY SPICK/PC

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-102

Score Of Newsmen Flock To Boycott Trials

More than a score of newspaper reporters representing publications in the United States, India, France and England were on the scene at the Montgomery County Courthouse yesterday to cover the Negro boycott hearings.

Also on the scene were cameramen of several newsreel firms and TV news program in addition to representatives of magazines and weekly periodicals.

By far the largest representation was the Negro press. Almost every major Negro publication in the nation had assigned a reporter to staff the trials.

INDIAN STAFFER

The reporter from the farthest distance was M. V. Kamath, spe-

cial correspondent of the Press Trust of India, Ltd. Keith Kyle was staffing for the London Economist and Daniel Morgaine for the France-Soir of Paris.

Other reporters covering the trials were Wayne Phillips of The New York Times; Peter M. Lizagor, Chicago Daily News; Charles Whipple, Boston Globe; Bob Denley, Atlanta, in INS; Nick Chris, United Press; Rex Thomas, Associated Press; Dan Berman, Brunswick, N. J. Daily News; and Farrell Dobbs, for Militant, New York.

The New York Post had dispatched two staff artists who drew pictures of the persons in the trials. They were Burt Silverman

and Harvey Dinnastin.

The Negro press represented included Charles Loeb, National Newspaper Publishers; James Booker, N. Y. Amsterdam News; Evelyn Cunningham, Pittsburgh Courier; Ethel Payne, Chicago Defender; William Fowlkes, Ebony Magazine; L. O. Swingler, Tri-State Call-Times, Memphis; James E. Huger, Louisville Defender; Al Sweeney, New York Afro-American.

Some newspapermen arrived late and their names could not be obtained. A veteran court official said that more people were covering the boycott trials than had covered any other cases in the history of Montgomery County.

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Alabama
Date 7-20-56
Page 6-8

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY Spicely/jcl

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-102

Negro Congressman Attending Trial Here; Raps Segregation

The first Negro elected to Congress from the state of Michigan arrived here yesterday as "an interested observer" to the bus boycott hearings and brought with him part of an estimated \$5,000 donated by the people of Detroit to aid the Negroes in the trials.

Rep. Charles C. Diggs Jr. (D-Mich) is a 33-year-old soft-spoken politician who believes segregation is "an evil which must be ended."

With Rep. Diggs in Montgomery is his bombastic, vigorous, nearly white-skinned legal advisor, Basil W. Brown.

RADIO PROGRAM

Diggs, who was educated at the University of Michigan, Fisk University and Wayne University, collected the money via his weekly radio program in Detroit, "The House of Diggs," an educational program with religious overtones. The congressman is a mortician by profession.

"The money is still coming in," Diggs said. "It's coming from people of both races and people of all religions and ages. We've received pledges through the mail,

by telephone and in person. The people of Detroit are mostly behind the Negroes here."

Diggs said he "had not been in Montgomery long enough" to decide exactly into whose hands the money will be placed or "exactly what it will be used for."

TO MAKE SPEECH

Diggs will remain in Montgomery through Wednesday. He said he will return on April 1 for a speaking engagement. "I don't know the title of the address but it will concern the racial situation in Montgomery and the South."

"The theory that 70 per cent of the Negroes in the South want to maintain segregation is a figment of the imaginations of editors and politicians," Brown argued.

CITIES RECORD

"There is no such thing as separate but equal facilities. The record proves that if the South really had intention of seeking gradual integration, they would have started educating the Negro a generation ago."

Questioned about the theory that the great numbers of Negroes in the South makes integration impracticable, the Negro attorney said, "I agree with the Southerner about the problem of numbers only in part. Certainly it makes the problem here more acute than in the North, but then the problem of boll weevils in cotton is more acute here than in the North."

"You have to meet the problem of boll weevils in cotton and lick that problem. Similarly, you have to meet the problem of greater numbers of Negroes here and lick that problem too."

Diggs ended the interview by saying, "We're not trying to shove anything down anyone's throat. But segregation is an evil which must be ended. We have some segregation in the North, but two wrongs don't make the South right."

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DATE 3/24/83

BY A/306/90

Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery, Alabama

Date 3-20-56

Page 6-B

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Bufile: 100-135-61

Mofile: 44-439

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-102



BRINGS BOYCOTT AID

Rep. Charles Diggs Jr. (right), Michigan Congressman, confers with his legal advisor, Basil H. Brown, shortly after court was adjourned yesterday in the trial of Rev. M. L. King. Diggs reported he brought "in excess of \$5,000" to Montgomery in order to aid the 90 Negroes on trial here for advocating a boycott of city buses. Diggs said he collected the money from listeners to his radio program in Detroit. Photo by Lasher.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3cl/ct

SECURITY

100-135-1-102

Records Of Association Reveal Thousands Spent To Support Bus Boycott More Than 90 Negroes On Trial For Protest Against City Lines

By TOM JOHNSON and FRANK McARDLE

State prosecuting attorneys yesterday produced testimony and bookkeeping records to show several thousand dollars has been spent by the Montgomery Improvement Assn. to finance automobile rides for Negroes who have boycotted the Montgomery City Lines Inc. buses.

Financial records indicated some \$30,713.80 had been disbursed by the improvement group for transportation services and other association expenses during the boycott.

The testimony came out at the trial of the Rev. M. L. King, pastor of the Negro Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and recognized boycott spokesman. He was indicted for boycott activities along with more than 90 other Negro residents here.

Erna Dungee, 668 W. Jeff Davis Ave., wife of a Negro doctor and financial secretary of the association, affirmed financial records

Related Stories, Pictures, Page 6B

presented by Asst. Circuit Solicitor R. E. Stewart. The records showed the organization maintained bank accounts in a Montgomery bank and an Atlanta trust company to conduct its operations.

After the woman had testified, Circuit Judge Eugene W. Carter adjourned the court until 9 a.m. today when King's trial will be resumed. King was the first of 90 defendants charged with boycotting city buses.

Circuit Solicitor W. F. Thetford said the boycott trials will continue without interruption "at the present." He said no docket has been prepared on the order in which they will be tried.

FORMED DEC. 5

King was identified as the president of the improvement association which was organized last Dec. 5, the same day the boycott began.

The Baptist minister's signature and that of E. D. Nixon appeared as powers of attorney on each of the checks introduced as evidence.

Earlier another minister, the Rev. A. W. Wilson, testified about the association's purpose.

The Dungee woman testified association checks were paid to eight service station operators for gasoline purchases for operation of the transportation service.

She also affirmed that a "standard service" fee of \$24 per week was paid to persons driving automobiles for the association. At least 15 persons were named as recipients of the payments for driving. Several others were confirmed as receiving compensation for related service in transportation.

REPEATED OBJECTIONS

Repeated objections were entered by the defense attorneys to the admission of the bookkeeping records on grounds that the records—deposit slips and checks—were photostatic copies and "not the best evidence" and the records of the improvement association were "immaterial and irrelevant."

Judge Carter overruled the objections and admitted the evidence. He explained that "there is enough evidence at the present to connect the material with a charge of conspiracy (for boycotting) against the defendant."

The jurist had called attention to the "wide range of activities" allowed the court by the law in determining conspiracy in boycotting.

Defense Attorney Peter Hall, Birmingham, voicing most of the objections, exclaimed, "We know the latitude is wide, but just how wide."

Particular attention was focused on a check for \$5,000. made out

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Alabama
Date 3-20-56
Page 1-B

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
Bufile: 100-135-61
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DATE 3/24/83 BY AP3/ale/hcl

ENCLOSURE 100-135-61-102

to each and endorsed by King. The association secretary testified the money was simply a transfer of funds from Alabama National Bank in Montgomery, to Citizens Trust Co. in Atlanta, Ga.

The following service stations were revealed by the testimony as

(Continued From Page 1-A)

receiving the checks for gasoline purchase with approximate amount received by each:

Derby Auto Service, \$300; Peoples Service Station, \$1,168; Adams Service Station, \$385; Washington Park Service Station, \$355; Oliver's Service Station, \$600; Fletcher Smith, \$417; D. W. Williams, \$1,318; Day Street Service Station, \$347.

According to the Dungee woman's records, checks in the amount of \$24 each for driving service were issued to: John Moncrief, Robert Lee Nunn, J. L. Jackson, L. C. Walker, the Rev. R. B. McCain, Larry Bryant, H. N. Johnson, Frank Massey, Thomas McCloud, J. H. Cherry, M. W. Richburg, the Rev. A. Sanders, J. W. Marcus, A. Murphy, the Rev. W. J.

Johnson, the Rev. H. J. Palmer, and W. S. Smith.

Before adjourning the court yesterday Judge Carter commended the gallery for "being very orderly and well behaved despite such a large crowd."

Judge Eugene Carter refused to rule the boycott indictments invalid and ordered trials for the 93 defendants.

Defense Atty Arthur Shores Birmingham argued the indictments were so "vague and indefinite" it was impossible for the defendants to know specifically what they were indicted for.

The demurrers held the anti-boycott law under which the Negroes were indicted violates the right of free speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of worship as guaranteed by state and federal constitutions.

Judge Carter overruled the demurrers.

Replying to Shores, Circuit Solicitor William F. Thetford said both the Alabama and U.S. Supreme Courts have held that the boycott law was not in violation of freedoms of speech, assembly "or anything else."

Soon after the court convened, Shores formally asked for separate trials for each of the scores of defendants.

This means each defendant must be tried individually instead of with others whose cases have similar circumstances. It also means the trials could conceivably drag on for months.

Besides Shores, the defense attorneys include Peter Hall, Orzell Billingsley, Fred Gray, Charles Langford and Robert Carter, of the New York City NAACP legal staff.

INTERESTED SPECTATOR

Negro Congressman Charles C.

Diggs (D-Mich) also was present as "an interested spectator." He said he had brought a "substantial sum of money"—more than \$5,000—contributed by residents of Detroit to support the boycott.

J. H. Bagley, manager of Montgomery City Lines, was the first state's witness to testify. He was called to the stand shortly after noon.

Solicitor Thetford ran into difficulty trying to show King was a part of a conspiracy. Judge Eugene Carter repeatedly ruled for defense attorneys who objected that King had not been linked to the questions asked by Thetford. Bagley told of receiving two documents—one identified as a "resolution" and the other never identified.

King's attorneys objected to their introduction and Judge Carter ruled the papers had not been linked with King.

BUSINESS FELL OFF

Bagley testified that business fell off following the beginning of the boycott on Dec. 5.

He said "only a small percentage is riding now that were riding before Dec. 5. I'd say five or six per cent."

Bagley said he encountered King twice—once at the first meeting called by Mayor W. A. Gayle and again when the mayor appointed a bi-racial committee to try to end the boycott.

Bagley said King acted as spokesman both times reading the demands of the Negroes.

If the demands were met, the Negroes would resume riding the buses, Bagley said he was told by King and another defendant.

The Rev. Wilson, pastor of the Negro Holt Street Baptist Church, was called at the afternoon session.

His church was used for the first mass meeting of Negroes on the night of Dec. 5. Wilson testified he didn't know who engaged the church for the meeting.

He said "somebody called on the phone and talked with his secretary. Wilson said he granted permission for use of the church."

Later, under examination by Assistant Solicitor Robert B. Stewart, Wilson said the meeting was arranged in the name of the Inter-denominational Ministers Alliance, a Negro ministerial group.

VAGUE ON DETAILS

Wilson was vague on many of the details of that first mass meeting because, he said, he was in his office most of the time except when he helped arrange seating for the press.

Asked if he saw the Rev. King at the meeting, Wilson replied, "Not that I recall."

"Did you see the Rev. L. R. Bennett?"

"It's been so long, it's hard for me to recall," answered Wilson.

Stewart asked Wilson if he recalled seeing King "before, during or after" the meeting and Wilson replied: "I do not."

Wilson testified he was a member of the Montgomery Improve-

ment Assn., formed to "improve the status of Negroes in Montgomery." But he declared he could not positively identify other members or officers of the organization.

He agreed the officers of the group are—or have been—King, president; Bennett, vice president; U. J. Fields, recording secretary; E. N. French, corresponding secretary; Erna Dungee, financial secretary; E. D. Nixon, treasurer.

Wilson testified he could not recall that any committees were appointed at association meetings which he attended.

COMMITTEES CITED

Pressed by Stewart, Wilson said he knew of transportation and finance committees which operated during the boycott.

Wilson was present at the first meeting called by Mayor W. A. Gayle, shortly after the boycott developed.

At the meeting, bus company officials and Negro leaders came face to face for the first time and tried, unsuccessfully, to end the boycott.

Wilson said he recalled King reading a copy of a resolution which set out the Negro demands for a new seating arrangement on buses, more courtesy and the hiring of some Negro bus drivers.

Wilson identified a photostatic copy of the resolution as "substantially" what King read.

Defense attorneys vigorously protested the introduction of the copy into evidence because it was a copy—one Bagley had testified he received in the mail.

As the attorneys hassled, Bagley walked back in the courtroom, was put on the stand and testified either he or company Atty. Jack Crenshaw had the original in the files. Bagley was dispatched to "get it."

Wilson was questioned about his attendance at mass meetings in January and February.

He admitted being present at a few but could not recall all the speakers he heard at the meetings. He said he had heard "so many pep talks" he couldn't remember who gave them.

REMARKS MADE

He did remember King making some remarks—"I wouldn't call it a speech"—about the boycott at a meeting at Day Street Baptist Church.

Wilson said he had seen collections of money taken up at every meeting but didn't know what happened to the money.

Atty. Stewart tried to pin Wilson down on the money question and asked if he knew why it was collected. Wilson replied amid a roar of laughter at the evasion.

"To my best judgment, it was used for whatever it was needed."

Asked about the improvement association, Wilson said it was

organized to improve the general status of Negroes.

Asked if it had been active in any matter besides the bus boycott, Wilson answered, "Not that I know of."

Among the 77 witnesses summoned are Mayor W. A. Gayle, Commissioners Frank Parks and Clyde Sellers, Police Chief G. J. Ruppenthal—all called as defense witnesses.

GRAETZ WITNESS

The Rev. Robert S. Graetz, white pastor of the all-Negro Trinity Lutheran Church on Cleveland Avenue, was also subpoenaed as a witness.

Former Police Commissioner Daye Birmingham and former Public Works Commissioner George Cleere were also on the list of witnesses.

Judge Carter repeatedly warned the crowded courtroom that it must remain quiet.

"This is no vaudeville," he said "if you came in to be entertained, you're in the wrong place."

Charges against three defendants were dropped because Thetford said there was a "substantial doubt" as to their guilt. The three were Alfred Ellis, Booker T. Holmes and Dr. M. C. Cleveland.

What did Montgomery's Circuit Court look like as the boycott trials began yesterday?

A crowd of about 500 Negroes gathered at the courthouse, some defendants, some witnesses, some spectators. As many as could find seats crowded into the courtroom. Another part was crammed into the outer hall and still another part looked from the windows of the east courtroom into the west

courtroom where the trial was in progress.

JUDGE'S WARNING

Judge Carter, warning that the courtroom with so many people packed around it was a firetrap ordered the crowds in the hall dispersed. He also stated that any person who was not seated in the courtroom had to leave. He promised a jail sentence for anyone who violated the court's orders.

Posted on the courtroom door was a notice signed by him that no photographers would be allowed inside, and that a violation of the order would mean a trip to jail.

Inside the courtroom, the spectators seats were filled by Negroes there were four rows of seats for whites and the jury boxes were occupied by whites.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

- Deleted under exemption(s) b7c, b7d with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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

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

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
 100-135-61-103

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X DELETED PAGE(S) X
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Date:

Transmit the following message via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC,

To:

PAGE TWO

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

did not mention that members of the boycott group were going to keep a watch on his house.

Bureau will be advised of any developments.

HALLFORD

Hm.....

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED - 34

cc-Liaison
Mr [redacted]

7C

100-135-61-103
100-135-61

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DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3 dcl/gcl

Date: March 28, 1956

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

3-125

Attention: Chief, Security Division

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

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

BY COURIER SVC.
7 7 MAR 29
COMM - FBI

[redacted]

COMM - FBI
MAR 28 1956
MAILED 24

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WAT

- Tolson _____
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- Gandy _____

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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)

50 APR 4 1956

WAT

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

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

AIRTEL

FROM SAC, NEW YORK (44-NEW)

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

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	_____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3/12/56

Classified by *sp3 elc/pjcl*
Declassify on: *OSR 5/3/83*
#96,048

RACIAL SITUATION,
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

[REDACTED]

SWP weekly newspaper "The Militant" dated 3/12/56, has banner headline, "Report from the Montgomery, Alabama, Battlefront", and page one story regarding this by WILLIAM PUNBY datelined Montgomery, Alabama, March 4.

Copy this issue of the "Militant" enclosed info, Bureau and Mobile. Buffalo and BK requested to advise MO and BH any available info regarding activities of [REDACTED]

msgr (7-3) (21)

KELLY

- 1-Bureau (100-135-61) ATT: (1) 1-100-16 (SWP)
- 1-Birmingham (RM)
- 2-Buffalo (RM)
- 2-Detroit
- 3-Mobile (44-439) ATT: 1 (RM)
- (1-100-1322 FACON)

- 2-Newark (RM)
- 1-NY 100-4013 SWP
- 1-NY 100-28627
- 1-NY 100-113301
- 1-NY 100-118483
- 1-NY 44-New

Mr. Belmont RECORDED-37
INDEXED - 37

100-135-61-104

MAR 23 1956

APR 4 - 1956

EX-108

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Report from Alabama Legislative Session

(Continued from page 1)

ted either. A few thousands from the rural areas led by the plantation owners and more representatives from the state's major urban centers.

the ancient hall and went into the streets of Montgomery to tell a few people what they thought of the legislation in the day before.

bill to "spread the Negro throughout the North" was introduced by no one. Said the gas station attendant: "The laws on the hill must be passed. I wish they would do things like that. I'm not in opposition, but you can't expect people to leave their homes." The white taxi driver complained: "If they cancel my debts and give me a train ticket, I'll go to Alabama too."

Other two measures, to "subversive" investigate to reveal the names of those who were taken more

UP IN THE LAW

the lean white man: "I think they'll get anywhere with that boycott. That Lucy gal is going to get anywhere. This legislation is 'em up, and throws a bomb. That's about what you want to do. Tie 'em up in the city and they won't get nowhere."

He spoke calmly, without anger, as did all the others I talked to with the exception of one. He said, "I'd like to see you try to get any of these [the petitioners for the boycott of Miss Lucy]. We know how to deal with them. It is this minority that is terrorizing whites and Negroes."

whites simply wouldn't talk to strangers about the bus boycott but they talked to Miss Lucy more freely. There is no obvious hysteria at the moment. Life goes on as if ordinary subjects start talking off. It often touches on case or racist legislation.

Since the three-man city commission joined the White Citizens Council, and the Mayor announced his get tough policy, however, the paper has blurted out all news of the movement

front pages of the newspapers. But there seems to be reluctance to speak about the Montgomery events.

I asked a white carpenter what he thought of the "boycott." He said: "I don't own the bus company."

"Do you think the bus company should grant their demands?"

"No."

"Then what do you think the bus company should do?"

"I don't know. I don't own the bus company. As far as I'm concerned they can keep walkin' forever. It don't hurt me none."

Some whites dare to express sympathy to the "protest." Aubrey Williams, publisher of the Southern Farmer and an outspoken opponent of Jim Crow for many years, appeared at the courthouse to offer bond for the arrested protest leaders. His money was not needed. However, he was the only white to do so.

"TAKE A TAXI"

One white woman behind the counter of a store where I had stopped hesitated when I asked how to get to a certain address. "Well," she said, "There's a bus goes out there. That is if you want to take a bus." She hesitated again. "If you've got the money you can take a taxi." I thanked her and turned. As I passed through the door she called after me. "I always walk myself, lately. It's spring, you know."

The files of the local paper, the Montgomery Advertiser, reveal that at the beginning of the protest movement last December there was widespread sympathy among whites with the protest. Letters to the editor citing instances of rudeness toward Negroes on the buses are not uncommon in the December issues of the paper. Even the editors themselves admitted that the Negroes had "legitimate grievance."

When I met a Negro reporter and asked him what he thought about the Montgomery situation, the first thing he said was, "There sure are a lot of smiles." This I observed also. The Negro

except official statements and legal actions, and has adopted a friendly tone toward the WCC.

One of the protest leaders told me, "When it became known that a certain white woman had helped us out a little when this protest first began, she was hounded by phone calls in the middle of the night, and threats, and I don't know what all. Why they made that poor woman so nervous she had to leave this town she'd been living in all her life. She had to go away to get a rest."

Everyone agrees that the strength of the WCC has grown considerably since the Montgomery and Tuscaloosa events. Its membership in this county has been estimated at 12,000.

THE MIDDLE CLASS

The meeting held here Feb. 10 at which Senator Eastland spoke was attended by about that many. A white reporter who had been there said, "I was surprised at the character of the people there. I had expected a bunch of ignorant farm hands and factory workers, but the crowd appeared almost entirely middle class."

Applications for WCC membership are easy to get. I picked one up in the white waiting room of a railway station. Ads from the WCC occasionally appear in the newspapers.

This is pre-election time here and statements from politicians that they are willing to "die" for segregation are not uncommon, but I have yet to hear a white worker say anything like that. As I have said, they don't talk freely with strangers, but in my opinion that is also significant. I have talked to many white racists before, and they were always obviously outspoken about their attitude. This is certainly not the case here among the ordinary people.

When I met a Negro reporter and asked him what he thought about the Montgomery situation, the first thing he said was, "There sure are a lot of smiles." This I observed also. The Negro

people I saw on the streets looked very happy, as if it were a wonderful holiday.

And they had good reason to be smiling. None, absolutely none of the Negroes are seen on any bus.

The WCC's are semi-secret organizations, controlled from the top. They are not yet a mass movement, but are capable of effectively intimidating by economic pressure and physical violence any whites who sympathize with the struggle of the Negroes for equality. But they can't intimidate the Negroes, at least not in Montgomery. That is the big thing here. And it has many of the white racists confused. The old weapons just don't work anymore.

THE FEAR IS GONE

A number of students at the Negro Alabama State College here told me that a cross had been burned on the Negro campus

the day before Miss Lucy was to attend her first class at Alabama University. "We just all went out and watched it. No one ran to hide. These things don't scare us anymore," said one student.

Another student said, "As inadequate as this little Jim Crow College is for the needs of Negroes in Alabama, many of our finest graduates move out of the state, and our people never get the benefit of their education. You can't blame them. I had planned to move out myself. But this boycott has changed my mind. It might change others. We've acquired dignity, and we are going on to get justice."

I asked them about the reported firings of Negroes who had participated in the bus boycott.

"You don't seem to stand," one young student said. "Nothing is going to scare people, but it won't make them mad."

And another: "These ment stores and businesses town aren't going to fire. They could be too easily by a boycott themselves."

Report from

Ala. Legislature Seen in Action On Racist Bills

By William Bundy

MONTGOMERY, ALA., March 4 — The Alabama legislature is presently meeting here in a special session, convened March 1, to discuss the educational budget, but kept alive to be ready to counter any anti-segregation moves quickly.

Opening day a number of bills attacking desegregation were introduced. One, which passed the Senate without dissent and is now before a house committee would ask the U.S. Congress to spread "Negroes among the several Northern and Western states, the areas where Negroes are wanted and can be assimilated."

Another which is halfway through the legislature would establish a committee to investigate any group "suspected of having subversive tendencies." It specifically mentions the NAACP and the Communist Party. This bill is expected to pass. It would allow the racist legislators to subpoena witnesses and records.

A third measure would make available to the racist legislators the names of those Alabama University students who petitioned the school to re-instate Negro coed Autherine Lucy.

THE LAW-MAKERS

I attended the March 2 session of this legislature to see these representatives of the "Southern Way of Life" in action. When I entered the capital, both houses were in session together as a committee-of-the-whole to discuss cuts in the proposed educational budget.

A committee member was reading a report listing the proposed cuts. (The all-white University of Alabama with 7,000 enrolled was cut \$205,000, while

the all-Negro Alabama State College with an enrollment of 2,500 was cut \$250,000).

Some of the solons lounged in their leather-padded chairs, reading newspapers and drinking cokes. A few listened attentively. One fat, white-haired legislator lay sprawled across three chairs. On the wall behind the speaker's table could be seen a large plaque inscribed: "In this hall the ordinance of Secession which withdrew Alabama from the Union of Sovereign States was passed Jan. 11, 1861."

"I couldn't really blame the longing law-makers, the discussion was dull. At length, one athletic looking young representative took the mike to speak against further cuts for the University of Alabama:

"We must remember," he said, "how courageously the president of that University faced a court decision ordering him to do something which he could not do because it was directly opposed to the desires of the people of Alabama."

PEOPLE NOT REPRESENTED

The people of Alabama! They are poorly represented here. One third of the state's population, the Negroes, are not represented at all. The only Negroes present here were white-jacketed Kilbee State Prison inmates who open windows and turn on fans for the comfort of these "representatives of the people."

The white majority is not

(Continued on page 2)

CONFIDENTIAL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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 Teletype message to:

✓ FBI, DETROIT (100-6781)
DIRECTOR, FBI (100-135-61)

3/12/56

Classified by *sp3 clj/ed*
Declassify on: OADR 5/2/83
#96,048

RACON - mobile

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED]

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The above information was furnished telephonically by ASAC J. T. SILVESTER, JR. to Inspector J. J. MCGUIRE at the Bureau on 3/10/56.

[REDACTED]

7C
7D

- ③ - Bureau Mr. Belmont
- 4 - Mobile (2 - 100-1322 - RACON) (2 - 44-439 - RACIAL SITUATION MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA) AM
- 2 - New York AM
- 2 - Buffalo AM
- 2 - Atlanta (INFO) AM
- 4 - Detroit (100-25025 - RACIAL SITUATION MONTGOMERY, ALA.)

100-135-61-105

RECORDED-37

MAR 28 1956

REGISTERED MAIL

Let to G... (17)
3/14/56

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Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Transmit the following Teletype message to:

PAGE TWO

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[REDACTED]

Extreme care should be exercised concerning any of the above information as a matter of protecting the informant.

The above is furnished to the Bureau and all offices for information and any assistance the respective offices might give mobile. **BUFFALO ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY** [REDACTED]

BROWN.

cc to Belmont
[Signature] 7C

7C

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Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

3 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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The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-135-61-105

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X FOR THIS PAGE X
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

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[REDACTED]

you are referred to my memoranda dated February 9 and 10, 1956, and March 2, 7, 8, and 10, 1956, in regard to the racial situation in the states of Georgia and Alabama. In the event any additional pertinent information is received by this Bureau concerning the presence of the afore-mentioned individuals in Montgomery, Alabama, same will be furnished you without delay.

[Signature]
Enclosure

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

[Signature]
(W/Enclosure)

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

[Signature]
(W/Enclosure)
BY COURIER SERVICE

- 4 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

MAR 26 1956

TELETYPE

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

FBI, MOBILE 3/26/56 1-30 PM EMC

DIRECTOR, FBI... URGENT....

RACIAL SITUATION, PENSACOLA, FLA. RE BUTEL TODAY.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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DATE 3/24/83 BY [signature]

[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT HE DID NOT
ANTICIPATE ANY RACIAL RIOT AS A RESULT OF THE INCIDENT AND
REPORTED THAT IN HIS OPINION IT WAS JUST A FIGHT WHICH OCCURRED
AS A RESULT OF THE THEFT OF THE ORANGES. NO REPORT BEING
SUBMITTED.

AMERICAN
INDIAN
FBI
MALLFORD

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EX - 107
00-135-61-106
MAR 29 1956

END
LINE 5 WRD 11 PLS
REPEAT PLS NO 4
IS LINE 6 WRD 11

Mr. Belmont
cc: [signature]

K
TD

TD

72

Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Liaison Section
Mr. [redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

7C
Classified by 3 cl/6cl
Declassify on: OADR 3/24/83

100-135-61

Date: March 30, 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 MOBILE
STATE OF ALABAMA

This memorandum will confirm information telephonically furnished to your office and the Office of Naval Intelligence on March 28, 1956, by a representative of this Bureau.

For your information a representative of another Government agency advised on March 27, 1956, that he received the following data from a confidential source

[Large redacted block of text]

The above telephone number in Selma is listed

[Redacted block of text]

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

(See note on yellow page 2)

See memo Belmont to Boardman, 3/29/56, dlj, same captio.

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COMM - FBI
MAR 30 1956
MAILED 20

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

RECEIVED READING ROOM

MAR 30 11 11 AM '56

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

The above telephone number in Chicago is listed
to the Standard Security and Management Corporation
which is located in the basement at 521 South Wabash Avenue,
Chicago.

7C

The files of the Bureau contain no record of
[redacted] or the Standard
Security and Management Corporation.

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

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

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Above information [redacted]
[redacted] was furnished by OSI Special Agent
Joseph Ratliff, Craig Air Force Base, Selma, Alabama.

TD

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

F. Boardman
F. Belmont
Liaison Section
cc Mr. [redacted]

7C

100-135-61

Classified by *[signature]*
Declassify on: OADR *7/21/83*

Date: March 30, 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 *(RACON) - M bile*
STATE OF ALABAMA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 3/24/83 BY *[signature]*

As a matter of interest to your agency, a representative of another Government agency advised on March 27, 1956, that he received the following data from a confidential source [redacted]

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OTHERWISE
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per
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[Large redacted block]

COMM - FBI
MAR 30 1956
MAILED 20

The above telephone number in Selma is listed [redacted]

[Redacted block]

The above telephone number in Chicago is listed to the Standard Security and Management Corporation which is located in the basement at 521 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago.

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

See memo *TOP* *Belmont to Boardman*, March 29, 1956 [redacted] 1956
same caption.

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RECEIVED HEADQUARTERS
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MAR 31 1956

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Letter to Mr. Dwight E. Abis
Director
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division

7C

The files of this Bureau contain no record of
[REDACTED] or the Standard
Security and Management Corporation.

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI
FROM : SAC, Mobile
SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DATE: 3/26/56

For information of the Bureau, enclosed herewith are two copies each of the following newspaper items:

- 1. Item appearing in Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, 3/22/56, captioned "DEFENSE USES 28 WITNESSES IN KING TRIAL."
- 2. Item appearing in Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, 3/23/56, captioned "COURT FINES KING \$500 ON BOYCOTT LAW CHARGE."

ENCLOSURE 2

- 2 - Bureau (Encl. 4) (100-135-61) (AM)
- 1 - Mobile (44-439)
- 1:lo
- (3)

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1 cc by memo to Henry
1 photo 4 sent to Tompkins
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[Redacted area]

Defense Uses 28 Witnesses In King Trial

Lawyers Try To Show
Negroes Mistreated
While Riding On Bus

By TOM JOHNSON
And FRANK McARDLE

Defense attorneys in the Montgomery bus boycott trials yesterday summoned 28 Negro witnesses to the stand to describe alleged mistreatment of Negroes on Montgomery City Lines buses in the last decade.

It is expected that the trial of the Rev. M. L. King, boycott leader and first of more than 50 people indicted on charges of violating the state boycott law, will be concluded today.

The trial is before Circuit Judge Eugene Carter, who will rule on the guilt or innocence of the Rev. King.

Formal arguments will be presented by both defense and prosecution staffs today.

As Negro defense attorneys called witness after witness yesterday, it was understood that they were attempting to show "just cause" in the grievances of the Negroes in their refusal to ride Montgomery City Lines buses.

Among defense witnesses were R. A. Parks, 634 Cleveland Ave., husband of Rosa Parks, whose arrest set off the bus boycott; Rosa Mc Murray and Martha Kate Walker, 707 Ellerwood St.

These and other grievance witnesses testified that they had been subjected to "unpleasant conditions" while riding the buses. They said they had encountered abusive language from drivers, instructions to move to the rear of the buses under threatening conditions, and other forms of mistreatment.

QUIT RIDING
Rosalie Murray said she will quit riding the buses "because if 50,000 other Negroes could stop riding them, I could too."

Martha Kate Walker said her blind husband suffered an injured leg when the driver of a bus closed the door and caught his foot before he had cleared the step when getting off the bus.

Richard S. Jordan said his pregnant wife was forced to give her seat to a white woman and "everywhere you find more than one Negro you will find criticism of the buses." He admitted he was one of the indicted boycotters and a NAACP member.

The general questioning line was on whether the witness had ridden city buses, if he had suffered "unpleasant experiences," the manner in which drivers addressed the passengers, and the seating arrangements.

The witnesses said the drivers had habitually referred to them as "niggers," "ugly apes" and in other derogatory wordage.

After calling three witnesses, including Mayor W. A. Gayle, the state rested its case at 10:35 a.m.

Negro Atty. Fred Gray immediately asked the court to exclude all of the state's testimony and return a judgment in favor of King.

After listening to Gray's exten-

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Alabama
Date 3-22-56
Page 1-A

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

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

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DATE 3/24/83 BY APJ/clc/jcl

ENCLOSURE

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sive arguments, Judge Carter overruled the motion and ordered trial to proceed.

The defense motion was based

(Continued From Page 1-A)

on the contention the state's evidence was "legally insufficient" to warrant a conviction, failed to show a criminal conspiracy, and failed to implicate King in any unlawful acts against the bus company.

Gray also argued the state anti-boycott law, as applied to King, was in violation of rights guaranteed by the state and federal constitutions — rights of free speech and worship, assembly, due process of law and petition for redress of grievances.

Even if there was a conspiracy Gray said, the state had not shown that the Negroes didn't have a legal excuse.

State law says boycotts are illegal unless there is "just cause or legal excuse."

Gray questioned the testimony of two Negroes who testified they were threatened for riding the buses. He said Ernest Smith is an employe of the county (court-house janitor) and "it is quite likely he would testify that way."

UNKNOWN PERSON

The other witness, Beatrice Smith, who said she was beaten and cut by an unknown person, is employed by the mother-in-law of Mayor Gayle, Gray said.

Gayle, called as a state's witness soon after yesterday's morning session began, testified the City Commission had met "directly or indirectly" with the Negroes more than 20 times since the boycott began.

He said the commission had offered the Negroes a seating plan reserving the 10 rear seats for Negroes and the 10 front seats for white passengers, with the rest of the bus to be filled on a first come, first-served basis.

Though "just as fair to Negroes as to whites," the plan was turned down, said Gayle.

Gayle described a meeting Jan. 21 at which three Negro ministers met with the commission and "agreed" to a plan for ending the boycott.

One of the ministers, the Rev. Benjamin F. Moseley, later "repudiated" the agreement, Gayle testified.

Gayle was questioned about the bi-racial committee he named in mid-December to seek a solution to the boycott. He said he named representatives of business, labor, the P-TA, and the ministry as white members.

DEFENDED MEMBERSHIP

He said King accused the white members of being "prejudiced."

Under questioning of King's lawyers, Gayle said one of the committee members was Luther Ingalls, a member of the Montgomery Citizens Council.

Then Gayle defended his own membership in the council by saying, "I wouldn't join anything unlawful." He said he joined in January.

Gayle testified the "get tough" policy he announced Jan. 31 was designed to end the boycott by persuading white persons not to give aid to the protesting Negroes and by urging patronage of the bus company.

"I did just the opposite from the colored people who asked people to refrain from riding," he said.

Gayle was asked his views of the demand for Negro bus drivers on certain city lines. He said he had "nothing to do with the administration" of the company.

As for the Negroes' request for first come, first served seating on all bus routes, Gayle said it would violate the city and state laws requiring equal facilities for white and colored.

Bagley testified earlier that a similar seating arrangement to the one offered by Gayle already is in force on some lines.

He said the rear 10 seats are reserved for Negroes when buses are traveling through predominantly white sections and the opposite is true through Negro sections.

Company policy regarding seating was set up, Bagley said, by the City Commission under the segregation laws of the city and the state.

He added it is the "policy of the bus company to obey" all laws.

Bagley admitted he had received a number of complaints of driver discourtesy but said they came from white and Negro.

City Detective Jack Shows, who with Detective K. W. Jones investigated the boycott, was put on the stand briefly to testify that while parked outside the Negro First Baptist Church, he heard "someone introduced as a Rev. King." But he admitted he never saw the speaker and could not swear that the defendant King, was the person who spoke.

After the state rested, defense attorneys called several witnesses in an attempt to show that Negroes had sought "relief" from the bus company numerous times prior to Dec. 5, when the boycott started.

'ABUSES' TOLD

Other witnesses testified to "abuses" they were subjected to while riding the buses.

Thelma Glass of the Women's Political Council (Negro), testified her group met with the City Commission on several occasions seeking better seating arrangements and other changes in existing bus service.

Sadie Brooks, member of the Civic Federation Club, testified that while riding a bus she saw a Negro passenger threatened because he didn't have the correct

"The driver whipped out a pistol," she said, and drove the man off the bus."

Georgia Teresa Gilmore said when she boarded a bus, a driver yelled out to her, "Come out, nigger and go in the back door." When she stepped off the bus to comply with his directions, she said the driver drove away.

She said she determined never to ride the buses again. "When you pay a fare and they count the money, they don't know Negro money from white money," she added.

Richard S. Jordan, a Pullman porter under indictment, testified he and his wife had been forced to move to "make way for white ladies at the Capitol just going two blocks."

He said he objected to being called "nigger" and "boy."

Della Perkins testified she had been called "ugly black ape" by a driver.

Gladys Moore said she was forced "hundreds of times" to stand when seats were empty in the front portion of the bus and that drivers treated her "just as rough as they can."

She said she resolved on Dec. 5 not to ride the buses again.

Judge Carter asked her why she chose Dec. 5. The woman's answer did not satisfy him and he repeated the question several times before she finally said "because Rosa Parks was tried."

Few white spectators have been present during the three days of testimony. Except for a small section of seats normally used by jurors, the Negroes have occupied the entire courtroom.

Many of them wear crosses on their lapels, reading "Father forgive them."

At one point when they applauded a witness' testimony, Judge Carter rose to his feet and ordered no further demonstrations.

"Even though you feel that way," he said, "you will have to be quiet in the courtroom."

Court Fines King \$500 On Boycott Law Charge

Judge Orders Continuance In 89 Cases

By TOM JOHNSON
And FRANK McARDLE

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Negro leader of the bus boycott here, was convicted on a charge of violating a state anti-boycott law and was fined \$500 and costs in Circuit Court by Judge Eugene Carter yesterday.

Judge Carter ordered a continuance in 89 other cases of Negroes charged with the same violation until a final appeal action is completed in King's case.

The jurist suspended payment of the fine until the appeal is heard by higher courts. The appeal eventually could go to the U.S. Supreme Court.

\$1,000 BOND

Defense attorneys prepared to post a \$1,000 appeal bond. They had previously stated they would carry the case "all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court" in the event of a conviction.

As King and his wife left the courthouse, they encountered a lively demonstration on the sidewalk. Television cameramen and news photographers fired away as a crowd of about 300 clapped and waved their hands.

They chanted, "Long Live King," or "Long Live The King" and "We Ain't Gonna Ride the Buses No More."

No demonstrations occurred in the courtroom.

Judge Carter announced he had been satisfied about the guilt of King in violating the anti-boycott law. But he added that he was levying a fine lower than the maximum because the minister apparently had "discouraged violence" in the bus boycott movement.

MOTION DENIED

Earlier a motion to dismiss the evidence entered by the state and rule a verdict for the defendant was denied by Judge Carter.

In his summary arguments, Circuit Solicitor William F. Thetford argued that the state had proved King had engaged in a conspiracy to hinder and prevent the operation of the bus company without "just or legal cause."

Defense attorney Arthur Shores of Birmingham and Fred Gray of Montgomery, in their summary said that the state had failed to prove King had been a party to any conspiracy or agreement to hinder the bus company's business and that if such a conspiracy existed it existed with "just cause." Shores said King was merely a spokesman for the Negroes who selected him for their leader.

Shores, one of the six Negro attorneys defending King, said that the Baptist minister "didn't volunteer to be a rabble-rousing crusader, as the state attorneys have presented him."

Interpretations of the anti-boycott law took up most of the arguments. Thetford charged a group of 16 to 18 Negro leaders

carried out the boycott "to gain personal power and influence." He added the boycott resulted

(Continued From Page 1-A)

from "hysteria built up at mass meetings" promoted by King and others. He pointed to violence in the firing on city buses and charged that King was directly responsible for boycott activity.

Thetford said the Montgomery Improvement Assn. had spent \$30,000 for the sole purpose of keeping the bus boycott alive.

King himself was called as the final defense witness.

The state put him through a fairly brief but vigorous examination during which the young minister denied that he had ever urged Negroes to refrain from riding buses.

He said his "emphasis" has been "let your conscience be your guide."

Another witness, the Rev. Robert S. Graetz, pastor of the all-Negro Trinity Lutheran Church, had earlier testified that on "several occasions" he heard King speak, the Negro leader never openly advocated that bus patrons remain off the buses.

Graetz said he had heard "two or three compromise proposals" for ending the boycott discussed at meetings of the executive board of the Montgomery Improvement Assn., and had submitted such a plan himself.

He said the board had been "interested" in the compromises but none was ever "completely acceptable."

King was asked if he ever advocated violence on the part of protesting Negroes. He replied that his stand had been the "very antithesis of that," that he had urged non-violence.

Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery, Alabama

Date 3-23-56

Page 1-A

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Bufile: 100-135-61

Mofile: 44-439

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY SP3 CLK/jcl

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-109

He described the improvement association, of which he is president, as a group formed on the day the boycott began to improve race relations and "uplift the general tenor of the community."

NO SALARY

He said he is paid no salary but that seven office workers receive money for their services.

Thetford tried to show that the resolution adopted at the first mass meeting (Dec. 5 at Holt Street Baptist Church) was actually prepared during the preceding afternoon by a committee headed by King.

King admitted he was a member of a committee but said he did not recall helping draft the resolutions. He said his impression was that the resolutions were planned during the afternoon and actually drawn up that night.

Thetford referred to another portion of the minutes of the afternoon session which referred to an agreement to continue the boycott indefinitely and asked King if such an agreement was reached.

"That's true according to the minutes," he said. "I just don't remember the discussion."

Thetford directed his questioning at trying to show that the boycott did not develop spontaneously on the night of Dec. 5, as some Negro leaders have maintained, but was planned hours before by a group of 20 persons at the Mt. Zion AME Church.

Did the executive committee of the association agree during the afternoon to set up finance and transportation committees, as mentioned in the minutes of the meeting?

King's reply: "I don't remember."

Thetford tried to show that there were, as he phrased it, "two boycotts"—the first one planned for one day only (Dec. 5) and the second, which developed later, planned for indefinite duration.

"Did you have anything to do with the first boycott?" asked Thetford.

"No, I didn't," said King. "Do you know anyone who did?" "No, I don't," King replied. "It was a spontaneous beginning."

Did the Montgomery Improvement Assn. take what started out to be a one-day boycott and, with its money and planning, extend the boycott indefinitely, Thetford asked.

"No, I wouldn't say that," the minister answered.

Thetford again referred to the minutes of the Dec. 5 afternoon session which referred to certain "recommendations" of the executive board being given to that night's mass meeting.

The solicitor wanted to know what the recommendations were.

King said he didn't know.

Was an agenda for the night's program drawn up at the afternoon meeting, Thetford asked.

"I imagine so," replied King.

Did the executive board draw up the three items the Negroes are said to demand as the price for ending the boycott—that is, a different seating arrangement, courteous treatment and the hiring of some Negro bus drivers?

"I don't remember," said King. He testified he "couldn't say" who formulated the demands or where or when they were drawn up.

But he added, "I think they were done at the Holt Street Church (at the first mass meeting). I really don't remember." In any event, he said, the demands reflected the wishes of the "4,000 Negroes" present at the Dec. 5 mass meeting.

He confirmed that the weekly budget of the improvement association is \$3,200—"approximately that."

Thetford asked if all of the approximately \$30,000 donated to the improvement association had been spent for the boycott.

King admitted "most of it" had. He said the money came from "free-will" offerings.

Asked how many white persons are members of the improvement group, King said he didn't know

because "we don't keep records on the basis of race."

SOME OTHERS

He said he did know that Graetz was a member.

Thetford asked if there were any others.

"I know we have some others," said King.

"Who are they?" "I don't know," said King.

King, pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, testified he came to Montgomery in 1954.

Thetford asked how many times he had ridden the city buses?

"Only Once," King replied.

Graetz preceded King on the witness stand.

He said, though, he couldn't remember having heard King urge Negroes to refrain from riding buses, he did "recall that there were times when they referred to people not wanting to ride."

The defendant put on seven other witnesses to rest the case.

All of them testified that as bus passengers they were abused and referred to in derisive terms.

REBUTALS GIVEN

In rebuttal to the passengers' testimony, the state called bus drivers J. B. Saddler, O. T. Rainwater, C. H. Williams, W. H. Mills, C. E. Moseley, and O. O. Martin.

Each of them testified he had driven buses for several years on predominantly Negro lines and denied the use of abusive language or discourtesy.

They said—and Manager J. H.

Bagley confirmed that the seating arrangement now in existence on buses reserves an equal number of seats for whites and Negroes.

That, they explained, means, the rear 10 seats are held for Negroes, the front 10 for whites, with the middle section seated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Negroes have demanded the end of reserved sections for either race.

Bagley, superintendent of the bus company since it began business in Montgomery 20 years ago,

testified there were 83 or 84 bus drivers employed on Dec. 5, the day the boycott began. None of

them, he said, was a Negro driver. Bagley said, "It's never

been the custom to hire Negro drivers."

Anyway, he answered: "I've never had an application."

Later, at a mass meeting at the Holt Street Baptist Church, King

promised some 2,000 Negroes that the boycott of buses would continue "no matter how many times they convict me." This promise

brought thunderous applause from the chanting, hymn-singing audience who had greeted King with

an equally responsive demonstration when he entered the church.

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

MAR 28 1956

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3 TELETYPE
FBI, MOBILE 3-28-56 6-10 PM NPO

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	

DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, CHICAGO ... URGENT ...

ORACON - MOBILE
Alabama

RACIAL CONDITIONS, STATE OF ALA. ON MARCH TWENTYSEVEN LAST
Office of Special Investigations Air Force Base
OSI SA JOSEPH RATLIFF, CRAIG AFB, SELMA, ALA. ADVISED HAD

RECEIVED FOLLOWING INFO FROM [CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE [REDACTED]]

[REDACTED]

APD
AW
ASIS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY SP3
DECLASSIFIED

ABOVE TELEPHONE IN

SELMA [REDACTED]

8 APR 3 1956

HALLFORD

AND ACK I O PLS

7-15 PM OK FBI WA JP

OK FBI CG ERS Mr. Belmont

55
570
SI
att: D. V. Owen
alcohol & tobacco cap on
3/30/56
members of 19 and
attest to that

ACSI & ONI advised
OSE cognizant
3-28-56

[REDACTED] 7C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Boardman
Belmont

March 29, 1956

Airtel

SAC, Mobile

100-135-61-110
RECORDED - 25

RACIAL SITUATION, STATE OF ALABAMA. Re Chicago and Mobile teletypes March 28, 1956.

Bufiles contain no record re [redacted] and Standard Security and Management Corporation.

Mobile and Chicago should conduct discreet inquiries to obtain all pertinent details concerning [redacted] involved, identities and background of purchasers and all receivers, method of transportation and disposition of same.

Mobile refer to Buairtel March 27, 1956, concerning initiation of discreet check [redacted]

[redacted] in connection with purchase of pistol ammunition by Negroes approximately March 15, 1956, who were reported to be from Selma, Alabama, and employed by Southern Railroad at Allen, Alabama. Mobile remain alert for any tie-in or connection between [redacted] and purchase of ammunition by Negroes in Allen approximately March 15, 1956.

Mobile, unless office files reflect to the contrary, should advise Alabama State Police and interested local law enforcement officials at Selma of information obtained concerning this matter. Mobile advise appropriate intelligence agencies of all pertinent facts.

For information of Mobile, Bureau has advised Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division, Department of the Treasury, of facts in this matter in view of possible violation of National Firearms Act.

Chicago and Mobile advise Bureau of all pertinent data developed as result of inquiries.

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

COMM - FBI
MAR 30 1956
MAILED 26

100-135-61

2cc SAC, Chicago

See memo Belmont to Boardman, 3/29/56, [redacted] dlj, same caption.

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

71 APR 9 1956

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECEIVED READING ROOM
MAR 30 1 10 PM '56

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

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Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. Boardman

FROM : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
STATE OF ALABAMA
Bufile 100-135-61

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

Racoon mobile

March 29, 1956

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

The Mobile Office by teletype 3/28/56 advised that a representative of Office of Special Investigations (OSI) Craig Air Force Base, Selma, Alabama, informed on 3/27/56 he received information from a confidential source

b7D
AC
FOSI

[Redacted]

Selma telephone listed to

b6
b7C
AC
FOSI

[Redacted]

Chicago telephone listed to Standard Security and Management Corporation, 521 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago.

b7D
AC
FOSI

[Redacted]

Chicago Office by teletype 3/28/56 advised investigation being conducted to further identify Standard Security and Management Corporation.

(ACSI)
Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, and Director of Naval Intelligence were telephonically advised of the above telephone conversation on March 28, 1956. OSI is already cognizant of the details.

b7C

Bufiles contain no record re [Redacted] or Standard Security and Management Corporation.

The Mobile Office is presently conducting discreet inquiries concerning the purchase of all existing pistol ammunition in the two general stores in Allen, Alabama, which was purchased approximately March 15, 1956, by Negroes reportedly from Selma, Alabama. These Negroes were employed by the Southern Railroad on a road-work gang. They stayed in Allen, Alabama, on railroad cars.

2-20-56

Enclosures
cc Mr. Boardman
cc Mr. Belmont
cc Mr. [Redacted]

dlj
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1956
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RECORDED-37
INDEXED-37

100-135-11-113
APR 5 1956

5-MQ

Memorandum for Mr. Boardman

OBSERVATIONS:

(1) In view of a possible violation of the National Firearms Act [redacted] it is believed the above facts should be furnished the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division of the Treasury Department which has primary jurisdiction over this act.

(2) The Alabama State Police and local law enforcement authorities in Selma should be cognizant of these facts [redacted] could be used in connection with the already tense racial situation in Alabama.

(3) We should advise the Department of these facts as well as confirm the Bureau's telephone call to Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, and Director of Naval Intelligence by letter.

(4) We will also instruct Mobile and Chicago Offices to conduct discreet inquiries re this situation and furnish all pertinent information to the Bureau. Mobile will be instructed to keep local law enforcement offices and intelligence agencies advised of all significant details.

Mobile will also be instructed to remain alert for any tie-in between the above [redacted] and the purchase of pistol ammunition by Negroes in Allen, Alabama, on or about 3/15/56.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) That the attached letter dated March 30, 1956, to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division be approved and forwarded.

(2) That the attached letter dated March 30, 1956, to ACSI, ONI, Assistant Attorney Generals Tompkins and Olney be approved and forwarded.

(3) That the attached airtel dated March 20, 1956, to Mobile and Chicago be approved and sent.

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

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

MAR 30 1956

TELETYPE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3 cld/pcd

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

SAC, MOBILE 3-30-56 1-01PM BJJ

DIRECTOR, FBI

URGENT **RACON**

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY, IS- SWP, RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY,
ALA. ESTIMATED ONE THOUSAND COPIES ~~OF~~ THE **MOBILE** **7C**
MILITANT ~~ISSUE~~ DELIVERED IN THREE BUNDLES BY RAILWAY
EXPRESS TO RESIDENCE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MORNING MARCH TWENTYEIGHT, LAST.

[REDACTED]

CARRYING ALL THREE BUNDLES OF ~~THE~~ "THE MILITANT" ~~ISSUE~~. NOT RECORDED
WAS MET BY [REDACTED] 193 APR 4 1956

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-16-61-4
UNRECORDED COPY FILED

END PAGE ONE

Mr. Belmont

58 APR 6 1956

PAGE TWO

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NY ADVISED BY

AIRMAIL.

HALLFORD

E FOURT LINE FROM TOP THIRD WORD SHOULD BE [REDACTED]

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ND AND ACK PLS

2-15 PM OK FBI WA NM

7C

CC: MR. BELMONT
AND SUPERVISOR
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

~~NOT RECORDED~~
193 APR 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 3/30/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]
SM-SWP
RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

*Class. Decisions Finalized
By U.R.C. 9/1/83*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by *SP3 CLK/ld*
Declassify on: OADR 3/24/83

7C

MOBILE

ReMoairtel to Bureau captioned RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, 3/8/56; Buffalo airtel to Bureau, 3/12/56.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was expected to visit the boycott leaders at Montgomery, specifically Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., Rev. RALPH ABERNATHY, and possibly [REDACTED].

⑤ - Bureau (2 - 100-135-61) REGISTERED MAIL

3 - Buffalo (100-11429) REGISTERED MAIL (100-6516 Info) (62-1145)

2 - Newark (100-41206) REGISTERED MAIL (RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA)

3 - Mobile (100-1332) (44-439) (100-110)

58 APR 9 1956
ma
(13)

CLASS. & EXT. BY 6383
PERSON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 10/29/90

100-135-61-
NOT RECORDED
193 APR 4 1956

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ORIGINAL FILED IN

Director, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3/30/56

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

(S)

RUC.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: 3/30/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile

(RACON)

SUBJECT:

RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Classified by *sp3 ch/gcl*
Declassify on: OADR *3/29/83*
per release in 140-12587-10 *BULKY*

Re Detroit airtel to the Bureau, 2/24/56, captioned RACON; Mobile airtel to the Bureau, 3/8/56, captioned RACON; Mobile airtel to the Bureau, 3/8/56, captioned RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA; telephone call from Assistant Director L. B. NICHOLS to Mobile Office, 3/10/56; Detroit airtel to the Bureau, 3/12/56 captioned RACON.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- ④ - Bureau (2 - [REDACTED] REGISTERED MAIL
(1 - 100-135-61)
(1 - 100-16)
- 3 - Detroit (2 - 100-22428) REGISTERED MAIL
(1 - 100-1334)
- 2 - New York (100-4013) REGISTERED MAIL
- 4 - Mobile (100-1322)(44-439)
(2 - 100-110)

100-135-61-
NOT RECORDED
165 APR 5 1956

[REDACTED] ma
(13)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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58 APR 10 1956

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INDEXED
MAY 1 1956
FBI - MOBILE

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

3/30/56

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

7C
7D
7E

[REDACTED]

at this time that neither [REDACTED] nor any other SWP member had contacted him. (c)

b1
7C

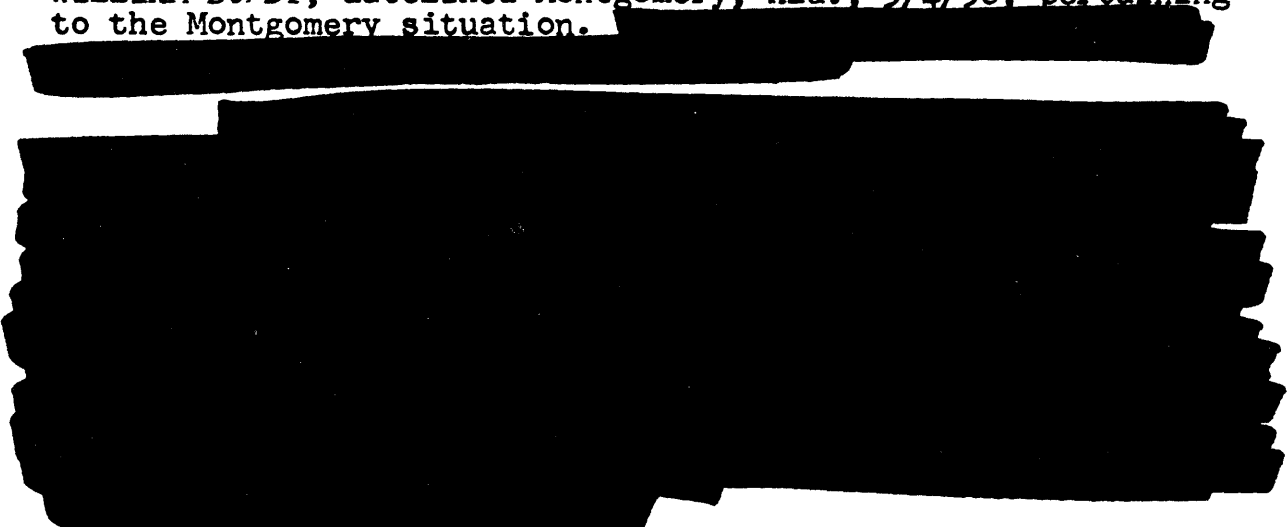
[REDACTED]



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

3/30/56

7C
By NY airtel to the Bureau 3/12/56 captioned RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, NY advised that the SWP newspaper, "The Militant," dated 3/12/56, carried an article by WILLIAM BUNDY, datelined Montgomery, Ala., 3/4/56, pertaining to the Montgomery situation.



If Detroit or NY learns of further plans of   notify Mobile by prompt communication.

RUC.

- 3 - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

U-9

Mr. [REDACTED]

RECORDED-37

110-135-61

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION. APRIL 2, 1956

URGENT

7C

EX-122 Transmit the following message to: SAC, MOBILE
CHICAGO

ENCODE

FACIAL SITUATION, STATE OF ALABAMA, RE MOBILE TEL MARCH THIRTY,
NINETEEN HUNDRED FIFTYSIX, AND CHICAGO TEL MARCH TWENTYNINE,
NINETEEN HUNDRED FIFTYSIX, RECOMMENDING INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] CHICAGO INTERVIEW [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CHICAGO BE DISCREET IN INTERVIEW IN ORDER NOT
TO COMPROMISE ORIGINAL SOURCE IN THIS MATTER. MOBILE IDENTIFY

[REDACTED] MENTIONED IN RETEL MARCH THIRTY, NINETEEN
HUNDRED FIFTYSIX, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MOBILE CONTINUE

LIAISON WITH INTERESTED LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND

INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES. CHICAGO AND MOBILE SUAIRTEL RESULTS OF
INVESTIGATION.

NR. 0223

ENC. 2308-2313

CK. 2338-2348

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

at (3)

NOTE ON YELLOW:

[REDACTED]

Chicago recommends

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

Bufiles contain no record of Army Intelligence, ONI, OSI telephonically advised of contents in attached teletype on 3-30-56. Confirming memorandum to Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, ONI, OSI and Department being prepared separately.

TELETYPE 3 11-2

APR 2 1956

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

SENT VIA

7:35 PM

Per

[Handwritten signature]

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7D

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cc - Liaison Section
Mr. [redacted]

7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3 cdf/jcl

100-135-61

Date: April 3, 1956
To: Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Chief, Security Division

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (RACON) - Mobile

Reference is made to my recent memoranda concerning the presence in Montgomery, Alabama, of certain members of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) in connection with the boycott of city buses by Negroes.

[Large redacted block]

An estimated 1000 copies of "The Militant" were delivered in three bundles to [redacted] on March 28, 1956.

[Large redacted block]

APR 5 1956
BY COURIER

MAILED 12
APR 3 - 1956

7C
7D

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

cc - Assistant Attorney General (By Form 0-6, same date)
Warren Olney III
cc - Assistant Attorney General (By Form 0-6, same date)
William F. Tompkins
Original teletype not available at time of dictation.

53 APR 1 1956

aat:mab
(9) mab

REC'D DEF WCH 1

APR 5 1956

7C

f. Rosen
[Handwritten notes and signatures]

Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Army

AC
SD
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] that he heard from an unidentified
Negro that [REDACTED] while in Montgomery [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] had recruited several
SWP members from among the Negroes in Montgomery.

The SWP has been designated by the Attorney General
as an organization within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

Any additional pertinent data 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

c - Liaison Section
Mr. [redacted]

7C

100-135-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY [signature]

bn

Date: April 4, 1956
To: Mr. Dwight E. Ault
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

RACON Mobile

Reference is made to my memorandum dated
March 30, 1956, concerning [redacted]

b7D
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In this memorandum it was pointed out that

Our Chicago Office subsequently determined

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

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Original of [redacted] teletype utilized to send
teletype to Chicago dated 4/2/56 to interview [redacted]

EX-125

RECORDED-42

100-135-61-116

MAILED
APR 4 1956
COMM-FBI

APR 6 1956

7C

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

c - Liaison Section
Mr. [REDACTED]

7C

100-135-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY [signature]

bn

Date: April 4, 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

(RACON) Mobile

Reference is made to my memorandum dated
March 30, 1956, concerning [REDACTED]

b7D
per
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In this memorandum it was pointed out that [REDACTED]

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b7C
per
AFOSI

Our Chicago Office subsequently determined [REDACTED]

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

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Original of [REDACTED] teletype utilized to send
teletype to Chicago dated 4/2/56 to interview [REDACTED]

EX-125

RECORDED-42

100-135-61-116

MAILED 5
APR 4 1956
COMM-FBI

APR 6 1956

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Letter to Mr. Dwight E. Avis
Director
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division
Internal Revenue Service

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

As a matter of interest [REDACTED]

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on February 20, 1956, the circuit judge at Selma issued an order to all dealers in firearms and ammunition restricting such sales to the extent that each customer must obtain written authority from the sheriff before making any purchases. The order allegedly was issued at the instigation of the Dallas County Citizens Council to prevent Negroes from making such purchases. One effect of the order has resulted in Negroes traveling to adjoining counties to make purchases.

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[REDACTED]

Letter to Mr. Dwight E. Avis
Director
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division
Internal Revenue Service

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

cc - Liaison Section
Mr. [REDACTED]

7C

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

100-135-61

Date: April 4, 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 memorandum dated
March 30, 1956, concerning [REDACTED]

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EX-107
COMM-FBI
APR 5 1956

In this memorandum it was pointed out that

[REDACTED]

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Our Chicago Office subsequently determined

[REDACTED]

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This memorandum will confirm additional data
concerning the above matter telephonically furnished
the agencies receiving copies of this communication on
March 30, 1956, by a representative of this Bureau.

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

cc - Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

(By Form 0-6, same date)

cc - Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

(By Form 0-6, same date)

See Note on Yellow Page Three

APR 10 1956

APR 5 1956

121 RECORDED - 83

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

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

As a matter of interest [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] on
February 20, 1956, the circuit judge at Selma issued
an order to all dealers in firearms and ammunition
restricting such sales to the extent that each customer
must obtain written authority from the sheriff before
making any purchases. The order allegedly was issued
at the instigation of the Dallas County Citizens Council
to prevent Negroes from making such purchases. One
effect of the order has resulted in Negroes traveling
to adjoining counties to make purchases.

[REDACTED]

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

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[REDACTED]

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

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Original of attached teletype utilized to send teletype to Chicago dated 4/2/56 [REDACTED]

7C

APR 3 2 10 PM '56
- 3 -
FBI - JUSTICE
REC'D BELMONT

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

- Deleted under exemption(s) b7c, b7d with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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

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

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
 100-135-61-118

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X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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Ltr to Director, FBI
Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

4/6/56

[REDACTED]

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The above is being furnished for the
information of interested offices.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: 4/5/56

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/24/83 BY [signature]

TO : Director, FBI
FROM : SAC, Mobile
SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Racon

Enclosed herewith as a matter of interest to the Bureau are two copies of clippings described as follows:
Article appearing in the Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, 4/3/56, page one, captioned "NEGROES DENIED PERMIT FOR BUS LINE;"
Article appearing in the Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, 4/4/56, page one, captioned "CITY APPROVES BUS LINE CUT."

The Bureau will be kept advised of all developments in captioned situation.

Enc. 4
② - Bureau (100-135-61)
- Mobile (44-439)
mem

cc [unclear] to [unclear] 4-10-56

RECORDED - 84
INDEXED - 84

62 APR 17 1956

APR 11 1956

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

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4-8-1956

City Approves Bus Line Cut

Montgomery City Lines Inc. was reduced another 135 miles yesterday on request of the company granted by the City Commission. Information on how many miles the company has been reduced since the boycott of buses by Negroes began could not be obtained from company officials.

The reduction was gained by merging the two buses which serve east Montgomery section. One bus formerly served that section until last Nov. 5 when they split the mission. J. H. Bagley, manager of the Montgomery City Lines, said that since the boycott on Dec. 5, 1955, the company had been operating 367 miles daily on the two routes "for a few white passengers." He said the revision will save 135 miles per day.

The bus will continue to serve the Veterans Administration Hospital and Gunter Air Force Base.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY SP3 CLK/gcl

Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery, Alabama

Date 4-4-56

Page 1

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Bufile: 100-135-61

Mofile: 44-439

100-135-61-119

~~ENCLOSURE~~

ENCLOSURE

- 1 -

TRANSPORTATION 'ADEQUATE'

A 31

Negroes Denied Permit For Bus Line

Leaders of the racial boycott against Montgomery City Lines buses asked in vain yesterday for permission to operate an all-Negro bus line in Montgomery.

The City Commission turned them down with the observation that the boycotted Montgomery City Lines Inc. is offering "excellent bus service for the entire city" and that "45 or 50 buses are now standing empty."

Negroes for 19 weeks have refused to ride the segregated City Lines buses and the company has discontinued some routes and

shortened others. Ninety leaders of the bus protest are under indictment for violating the state's anti-boycott law.

Members of a Negro delegation, led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., asked the city commission for authority to form a new bus company to "provide adequate transportation for our people." They said the company would be "owned and operated by Montgomery Negroes."

Mayor W. A. Gayle, speaking for the commission, said bus revenue wouldn't support two lines. He suggested instead the Negroes ask Montgomery City Lines to operate buses exclusively for them.

King, only one of the indicted Negroes brought to trial thus far, told the commission, "We are only seeking satisfactory transportation. We don't want to put the other company out of business—that has never been our goal. We are trying to make for wholesome relations and the elimination of tension among the races in Montgomery."

The Negro Baptist minister was convicted of boycotting and fined \$500. He has appealed the fine and Negro attorneys said they would take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary.

Most of the original issues in (See NEGROES, Page 6A)

the bus boycott—including better seating arrangements and the hiring of Negro drivers — were discussed again yesterday at the 90-minute conference.

Gayle said the employment of drivers "is up to the bus company. It's their money and they have the right to hire whom they please."

After the meeting, King declined to say whether the Negroes would confer with bus line officials. He said that decision would have to be made by the Montgomery Improvement Assn. executive board and "the Negroes of Montgomery."

The improvement association, of which King is president, was formed to support the boycott and improve the general status of the Negro population.

Whether the protest would end if the bus company agreed to hire some Negro drivers likewise would be a matter to be determined at a Negro mass meeting, King added.

Other members of the Negro delegation were the Rev. H. H. Hubbard, the Rev. W. J. Powell, E. D. Nixon, J. E. Pierce, Attorneys Fred D. Gray and Charles Langford, and the widow of a Negro physician, Dr. A. W. West.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83

BY SP3 CLK/CL

Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery, Alabama

Date 4-3-56

Page 1

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Bufile: 100-135-61

Mofile: 44-439

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-117

MKS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 4/9/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile

CIRCON

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
STATE OF ALABAMA

Re Bureau airtel to Mobile and Chicago, 3/30/56, concerning purchase of ammunition by Negroes in Selma, Ala. vicinity.

There are enclosed herewith for the Bureau, two copies of a letter dated 4/9/56 classified confidential, and addressed to OSI, 8th Air Force, with a copy to ONI, 6th ND and G-2, 3rd Army. This information disseminated includes the information concerning purchase of ammunition at Allen, Ala. and also pertaining to the situation in Selma, Ala. as included in Mobile airtel to the Bureau and Atlanta, dated 4/4/56.

ENCLOSURE
61

2-Bureau (100-135-61)(Encls.2)(REGISTERED)
1-Mobile (100-1342)

vlw

(3)

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DECLASSIFIED BY sp3 cle/gcl
ON 3/24/83

30

RECORDED-67

100-135-61-120

INDEXED-61

4-13
14 APR 12 1956

EX-107

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APR 10 1956 260

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

533 Federal Building
Mobile, Alabama
April 9, 1956

DECLASSIFIED BY *sp3 cle/pe*

ON *3/24/83*

Lt. Colonel Joseph D. Russell
District Commander
Office of Special Investigations
Eighth District Office
Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

Re: Racial Situation,
State of Alabama

Dear Sir:

The following is submitted for your information.

On March 19, 1956, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that

[REDACTED] had informed him on
March 15, 1956, that an unidentified Negro
[REDACTED] purchased a carton of .22 caliber pistol ammu-
nition and all other pistol ammunition [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] advised that this individual had also asked
if [REDACTED] had any Luger ammunition.

[REDACTED] reportedly told [REDACTED] that he
had learned that a Negro had gone to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and had
purchased all existing pistol ammunition in stock [REDACTED]
Allen, Alabama is a small, rural community and
for the week prior to March 19, 1956, a road work gang
employed by the Southern Railroad had been in Allen in
railroad cars. This road work gang was reported to be
from Selma, Alabama, and to be composed mainly of Negroes.

CC: ONI, 6th Naval District (Registered)

G-2, 3rd Army (Registered)

Registered Mail

2-Bureau with cover memo (100-135-61)
1-Mobile (100-1342)

[REDACTED] vlw
(6)

100-135-11-1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE

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Lt. Colonel Joseph D. Russell
April 9, 1956
Re: Racial Situation,
State of Alabama

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised on April 3, 1956, that a young Negro boy in the middle of March, 1956, had purchased a box of .22 caliber ammunition [REDACTED] and had asked for pistol ammunition and was told that [REDACTED] had none. He made no effort to purchase any additional .22 caliber ammunition nor did he try to purchase any shotgun ammunition, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised on April 3, 1956, that this Negro boy [REDACTED]

Lt. Colonel Joseph D. Russell
April 9, 1956
Re: Racial Situation
State of Alabama

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[redacted] asked to buy pistol ammunition. [redacted] had only one box of .38 caliber ammunition, containing about forty-eight cartridges, which he sold to the boy, who indicated it was for his uncle. He also sold the boy one or two boxes of .22 caliber ammunition, each box containing fifty rounds. [redacted] had some .32 caliber ammunition and shotgun shells, but the boy was not interested in purchasing that ammunition. Later that same day three or four Negroes believed to be members of the same railway gang, came [redacted] inquiring about some ammunition including shotgun shells and .38 ammunition, and one Negro asked for Luger ammunition. [redacted] told the group that he had no more ammunition to sell.

Law enforcement officers in Clarke, Wilcox and Dallas Counties were advised of these purchases.

For your further information, on March 30, 1956, [redacted] advised that on February 20, 1956, the Circuit Judge at Selma had issued an order to all firearms and ammunition dealers in Dallas County to the effect that no such sales could be made without written authorization from the Sheriff of Dallas County. The purpose of this order was to prevent Negroes from making such purchases. [redacted] stated that as a result of this order, Negroes have been going into adjoining counties to purchase ammunition.

For your further information, [redacted]

b7D
per
AFOSI

JAN 10 1956

Lt. Colonel Joseph D. Russell
April 9, 1956
Re: Racial Situation,
State of Alabama

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AFOSI

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Investigation at Chicago, Illinois reflects the
Chicago telephone number is listed to Standard Security
and Management Corporation.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Any further pertinent information concerning
this matter as may be received by this office will be
furnished to you for your information.

Very truly yours,

Fred Hallford
Special Agent in Charge

JAN 10 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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

DATE: April 4, 1956

FROM: SAC, Birmingham (100-3080)

SUBJECT: RACON - Mobile

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3claj/c

Re Atlanta teletype to Bureau, Birmingham and Mobile
March 2, 1956; Bureau teletype to Atlanta, Mobile and Birmingham,
March 5, 1956, and Birmingham letter to Bureau dated March 9, 1956.

[REDACTED]

He was advised that
Sears-Roebuck at Tuscaloosa does not stock revolvers and that each
one has to be ordered from the company at Atlanta, Georgia. He
looked over a catalogue in the store with the clerk in charge of
the department and questioned him as to the best weapon to buy and
the type they had sold the most of recently. The clerk advised that
sales had not been voluminous; that they had sold a few .22-calibre
pistols recently, but that the prospective customers were required
to file a form which is sent with the order to the Atlanta warehouse
and that the police department at Tuscaloosa receives a notice of
the permit to purchase a gun.

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[REDACTED]

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3D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RECORDED - 30

100 - 135 - 61 - 121

2 - Bureau
1 - Birmingham

18 APR 6 1956

let to [unclear]
[unclear]
4/12/56

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1 [REDACTED] 7C

BH Letter to Bureau
Re: RACON

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|

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Bureau will be advised of any additional pertinent information coming to the attention of the Birmingham Office concerning this matter.

cc - Liaison Section
Mr. [redacted]

RECORDED - 30

EX - 134

100-135-61-121

100-135-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY [signature]

Date: April 12, 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 memorandum dated
March 16, 1956, concerning inquiries made by our
Birmingham Office in regard to alleged shipments of
firearms into the State of Alabama.

For your further information, an inquiry
conducted at Sears, Roebuck and Company, Tuscaloosa,
Alabama, on March 25, 1956, reflected that this store
does not stock revolvers and each individual weapon
must be ordered from the Sears, Roebuck and Company
store in Atlanta, Georgia. Sales at the Tuscaloosa
store have not been excessive and only a few .22 caliber
pistols have been sold recently.

BY COURIER DEL.
99 APR 18 1956
COMM - FBI

[Large redacted block]

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

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)

APR 18 1956

COMM - FBI
APR 2 1956

LETTER PRICE
[illegible]

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[Handwritten notes and signatures]

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

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

.....

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

**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 Tempo #
4th and Adams Drive, S. W.
Washington, D. C.

BY COURIER SERVICE

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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 1 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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Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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_____ 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 3/28/56

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X FOR THIS PAGE X
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ AIRTEL

4/6/56

AIRMAIL

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	_____

MOBILE (100-110)
 DIRECTOR, FBI (100-16)
 SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
 IS - SWP
 (New York Origin)

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

Re Mobile teletype to Bureau 3/30/56, which advised that [redacted] who had previously on 3/28/56 received three bundles of "Militant",

[redacted]

[redacted]

Mobile is attempting to ascertain [redacted] what disposition [redacted] has made of last week's shipment of "Militants," and what disposition he may make of the 4/3/56 shipment.

[redacted]

- ③ - Bureau (2 - 100-16) (AIRMAIL)
 (1 - 100-135-61)
- 2 - New York (100-4013)
- 3 - Mobile (2 - SWP, 100-110)
 (1 - 44-439)

Classified by [signature]
 Declassify on: OADR 6/29/83

REGISTERED
 100-135-61-
 NOT RECORDED
 15 APR 11 1956
 INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
 OTHERWISE
 INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

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 58 APR 13 1956

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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(KACON)

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

To: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-16)

4/6/56

Re: SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
IS - SWP

In the event the New York Office is able to obtain any information bearing upon [redacted] relationship with the SWP, Mobile should be promptly advised. For information of New York [redacted]

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MALLFORD

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

APR 8 1 02 PM '56

RECEIVED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 the Montgomery, Ala., Battlefront

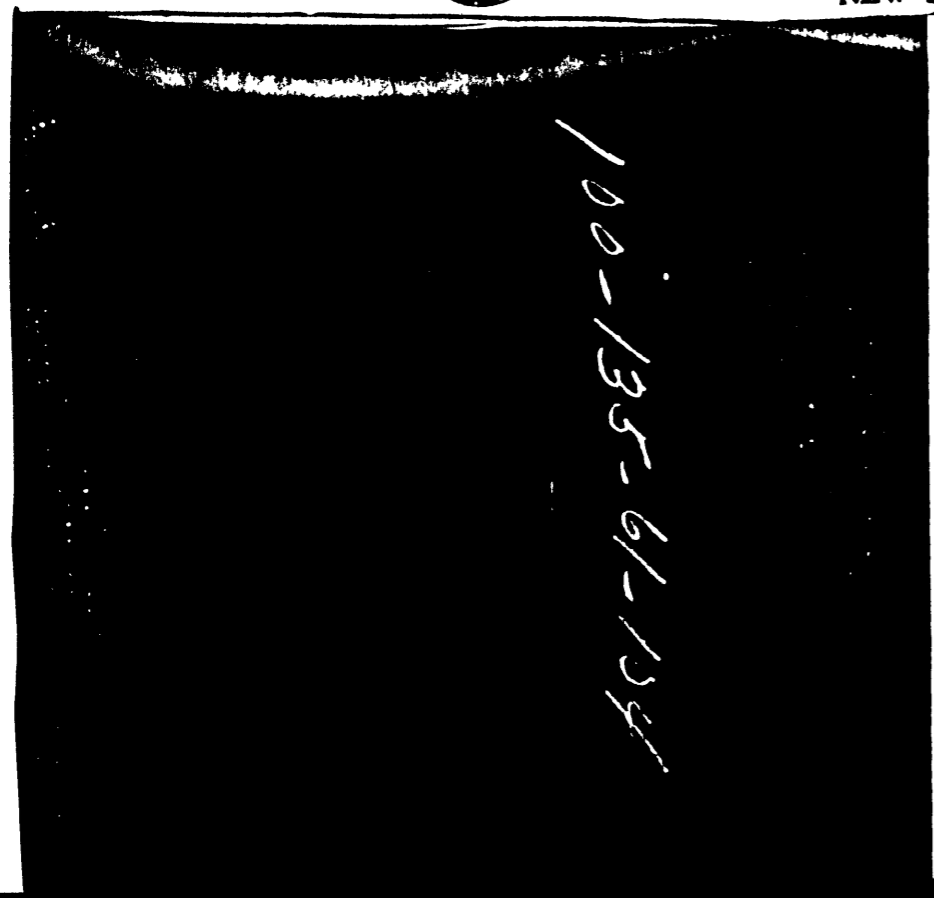
THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Vol. XX — No. 11

NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1956

PRICE: 30 CENTS



100-135-61-134

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, MOBILE
SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DATE: 4/10/56

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY 603 cte/ed

[REDACTED]

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Washington Field is requested to furnish to Mobile any pertinent information appearing in the indices concerning the American Capsule News.

[REDACTED]

The Atlanta Division is requested to furnish to Mobile any pertinent information appearing in the indices concerning Koinonia Farm, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

EXP. PROC.

RECORDED - 94

100-135-61-122

- 2 - Bureau (100-135-61)
- 2 - Atlanta
- 2 - New York
- 2 - Washington Field
- 2 - Mobile (44-439)
- spt

INDEXED - 94

17
16 APR 13 1956

ice
[Handwritten initials]

23

DIRECTOR, FBI

4/10/56

RE: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

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[REDACTED]

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New York is requested to furnish Mobile any pertinent information appearing in the indices concerning [REDACTED] or concerning the Fellowship of Reconciliation. ✓

[REDACTED]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-135-61-123

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X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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Liaison Section
cc Mr. [redacted]

7C

RECORDED-11

100-125-61
100-135-61-123

Date: April 12, 1956

EX-122 For: Mr. Dwight E. Ault
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, and April 4, 1956, concerning the transportation of a large quantity of ammunition to Selma, Alabama.

[Large redacted block of text]

MAILED 12
APR 12 1956

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

28

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

Sec - Mobile (See note on pages 3 and 4)

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)

BY COURIER SVC.
AF [initials]
99 APR 13 1956
COMM - FBI

(12) mag [initials]

[Handwritten initials and notes]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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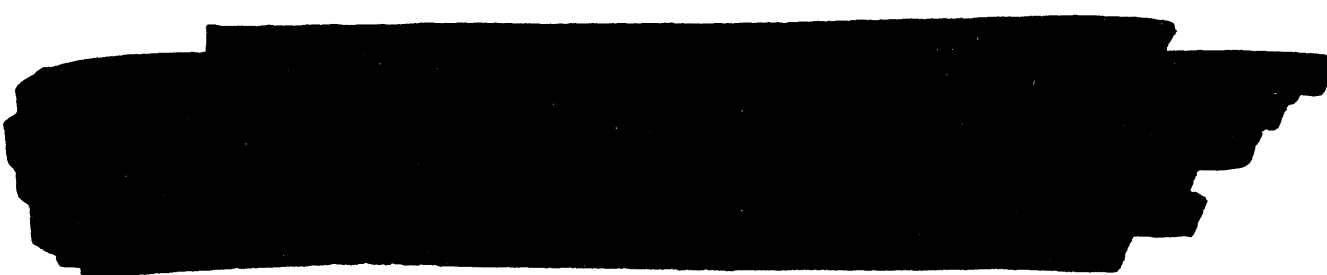
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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Letter to Mr. Dwight B. Lyle
Director
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division
Internal Revenue Service**

7C



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

**cc - Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.**

Attention: Chief, Security Division

**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

NOTE FOR SAC, MOBILE:

**Re Chicago airtel April 5, 1956, and Butel
April 2, 1956.**

Letter to Mr. Dwight E. Avis
Director
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division
Internal Revenue Service

As noted in reButel, Mobile should continue liaison with interested local law enforcement officers and intelligence agencies.

Any additional pertinent information obtained in regard to this matter should be furnished the Bureau immediately.

XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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 N Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) Army Intelligence, was/were forwarded to the for direct response to you.

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100-135-61-124

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
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F B I

Date: 4/4/56

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	_____
Gandy	_____

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, MOBILE (100-1342)

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

RACIAL SITUATION,
STATE OF ALABAMA

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

Reference Buairtel to Mobile instructing that further discreet inquiries be made concerning the reported purchase of ammunition in Allen, Ala. by negroes, it being noted that information had been reported to the Sheriff of Clark County, Ala., that negroes working for the Railroad at Allen had purchased all pistol ammunition in stock of two local stores.

On 4/2/56 [redacted]

[redacted] furnished a list of all Southern Railway employees assigned to a road gang in the vicinity of Allen, Ala. during the period including 3/15/56. List includes total of 16 white and 23 negro employees. Crew had been assigned to repair track between Suggsville and Whatley, Ala.

[redacted]. He related that the only information he had concerning the purchase of ammunition was a comment made to him by the Railway Agent at Suggsville to the effect that the [redacted] on the Railway gang had been purchasing ammunition for some of the men.

[redacted] asked that his identity in this matter not be divulged. He related that a few weeks ago he had stopped at the Company operated store to purchase some .22 caliber rifle ammunition that he regularly buys to carry with him on hunting and fishing trips. He was advised by store operator in Selma, Dallas County, Ala. that the sale of ammunition had been restricted and that he would have to secure approval of [redacted]

- ③ - Bureau (100-135-61)
- 2 - Atlanta (Info)
- 2 - Mobile (100-1342)

[redacted] -bjw

cc: MR. BELMONT
AND SUPERVISOR
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

7C
7C
ORACON - Mobile
mag. 4/1/56
let to [redacted]

RECORDED-74
EX-125
APR 18 1956
Mr. Belmont
7C

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following message via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC,

To:

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

4/4/56

Re: RACIAL SITUATION,
STATE OF ALABAMA

Sheriff's Office prior to being permitted to purchase ammunition. He decided to wait until he returned to his home County where he is known by the Sheriff, but in meantime [redacted] was assigned to repair a section of track near Suggsville, Ala. [redacted]

[redacted] was going to local store in Allen, Ala., which stores are immediately adjacent to the Railway depot at Suggsville to purchase some ammunition for his uncle whose name is not known. [redacted] asked [redacted] to purchase a box of .22 caliber long rifle shells. [redacted] returned with one box containing 50 cartridges of .22 caliber rifle shells which he gave to [redacted]. He had also purchased one box containing not quite 50 cartridges of .38 caliber ammunition. He had said that this ammunition was for his uncle who had asked him to get all he could. [redacted] paid \$4.00 for this box. [redacted] also recalls some conversation between [redacted] and some of the other negroes on the crew concerning Luger ammunition, but states he paid little attention to conversation and cannot recall details.

[redacted] that about middle of March, 1956, young negro boy, [redacted] purchased one box of .22 caliber long rifle ammunition. He also asked for pistol ammunition, [redacted] had none. He made no effort to purchase any additional .22 ammunition or shotgun ammunition,

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

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7D

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following message via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC,

To:

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

4/4/56

Re: RACIAL SITUATION,
STATE OF ALABAMA

both of which was in stock. The negro then went [REDACTED]

7C
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[REDACTED] advised on 4/3/56 as follows. The young negro boy [REDACTED] on or about 3/15/56 and asked to buy pistol ammunition. [REDACTED] assumed that he wanted one or two rounds and was surprised that boy wanted whole box of 50. [REDACTED] had only one box of .38 caliber ammunition containing about 48 cartridges and he sold this to boy who indicated that it was for his uncle. [REDACTED] also sold boy one or two boxes of 50 rounds each of .22 caliber rifle ammunition. [REDACTED] also had in stock some .32 caliber ammunition and shotgun shells but boy indicated no interest in these. That same afternoon, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was in [REDACTED] and he commented that in Selma, Dallas County, Ala. the stores had stopped selling firearms or ammunition to negroes in view of the tense racial situation. About that time 3 or 4 other negroes, all members of the same Railway gang came [REDACTED] and inquired for ammunition, including shotgun shells, .38 ammunition and one negro asked for Luger ammunition. [REDACTED] states he advised them that he had no more ammunition and he did not sell any to these men.

[REDACTED] reinterviewed 4/3/56, but no pertinent information received.

[REDACTED] advised on 4/3/56 that he had no further information in this matter.

Appropriate law enforcement officers in Clark, Wilcox and Dallas Counties advised of instant purchases.

On 3/30/56 Sheriff JAMES G. CLARK, Selma, Dallas County, advised that on 2/20/56 the Circuit Judge at Selma had issued an

- 3 -

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following message via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC,

To:

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

4/4/56

Re: RACIAL SITUATION,
STATE OF ALABAMA

oral order to his office that he should inform all dealers in firearms and ammunition in Dallas County that no sales of such merchandise were to be made to anyone without written authorization from Sheriff. Order issued at instigation of Dallas County Citizens Council for purpose of preventing negroes from making purchases. Local authorities advise that one effect of order has been for negroes to go into adjoining counties to purchase ammunition.

No further inquiries contemplated by Mobile. If further details desired, suggest Bureau authorize Atlanta to interview [REDACTED]

HALLFORD

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Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

cc - Liaison Section

7C

RECORDED-74

100-135-61

100-135-61-125

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3 dcl/gcl

Date: April 11, 1956
For: 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 memorandum dated
March 22, 1956, advising that an unidentified Negro on
or about March 15, 1956, had purchased a quantity of
pistol ammunition [redacted] in Allen,
Alabama.

For your further information, [redacted]

[redacted] Allen, Alabama, with a road-
work gang about the middle of March, 1956, purchased
two or three boxes of .32 caliber rifle ammunition and
about 40 cartridges of .38 caliber pistol ammunition.
He gave one box of the .32 caliber ammunition to a fellow
employee on the railroad who regularly uses such ammunition
on hunting trips and told this fellow employee that the
.38 caliber ammunition was purchased for his uncle.

[redacted] advised on April 8, 1956, that a young
Negro bought the .38 caliber ammunition from him, as
well as one or two boxes containing 50 rounds each of
.32 caliber rifle ammunition.

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

BY COURIER SVC.
APR 11 1956

COMM - FBI
APR 11 1956
MAILED 24

FBI - BOSTON

Handwritten initials and signatures: Lto, O/Sun, WTR, HOPW

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Handwritten notes: mag, APR 11 1956, (9), M

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

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[redacted] also stated that during the same day he sold this ammunition, mentioned above, three or four other Negroes who were all employed by the Southern Railroad came [redacted] and inquired about the availability of ammunition, including shotgun shells, .38 caliber ammunition and Luger ammunition. [redacted] told these individuals he had no more ammunition and did not sell any ammunition to these men.

[redacted] advised on April 3, 1956, that about the middle of March, 1955, a young Negro purchased one box of .32 caliber rifle ammunition [redacted]

[redacted] stated that the young Negro who made the above purchases and who is probably identical with [redacted] made no effort to purchase shotgun shells which were available [redacted]

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

FBI

Date: April 16 1956

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

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, Birmingham (100-3080) ✓

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

ORACON MOBILE

Remyairtel 4-14-56.

Press accounts in Birmingham April 16 reflect that the trial of E. L. VINSON, JESSE W. MABRY, MIKE FOX and ORLISS CLEVINGER was continued today in Birmingham Recorders Court. Trial consisted of detailed testimony concerning events leading up to and the attack on NAT KING COLE.

ORLISS CLEVINGER signed statement alleging that the attack was planned nearly a week in advance in an Anniston service station, according to newspaper accounts.

Bureau will be kept advised of further developments.

✓ FULTS

3 - Bureau (AM)
1 - Birmingham
JE

(4)

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY [signature]

EX-125

Mr. Belmont

[Redacted]

7C

RECORDED-29

100-135-61-126

23 APR 1956

APR 15 4 33 PM '56

FBI - OFFICE [signature]

Approved: [signature] Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

APR 24 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED DATE: 4/10/56

FROM : SAC, MOBILE

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY [signature]

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Racism - Mobile

ReMotel's to the Bureau dated 1/30/56 and 2/1/56 concerning the bombing of homes of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. and E. D. NIXON.

[REDACTED]

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Through a variety of alleged sources of information consisting mostly of maids serving in various white homes in Montgomery, Ala. and consisting in large part of rumor, there has been built up the following story concerning the bombings of the residences of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. and of E. D. NIXON in Montgomery, Ala. as reported in referenced communications.

[REDACTED]

7C

On about the third night after the bombing of the residence of E. D. NIXON, T. P. SELLERS was allegedly admitted to St. Margaret's Hospital in Montgomery, Ala. suffering from a severe injury of one arm and burns in other places on his body allegedly resulting from an explosion. After some treatment at St. Margaret's Hospital and after an un-named physician who was attending him allegedly dropped the case, T. P. SELLERS was transferred to the Veterans Administration Hospital at Montgomery. His arm was amputated and he later died as a result of his injuries. News articles are supposed to have appeared in the Luverne Journal, Luverne, Ala., and in the Greenville Advocate, Greenville, Ala., sometime after February 4, 1956 pertaining to the injury and amputation of T. P. SELLERS' arm. SELLERS is supposed to be a resident of Luverne, Ala. or was before his death. [REDACTED] allegedly attempted to secure a copy of the Luverne Journal carrying that

EXP. PROC. FILED

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7C

- 3 - Bureau (2cc - 100-135-61) (cc - 105-43132)
- 2 - Mobile (lcc - 44-439) (lcc - 105-43132)
- 1 - spt

(5)

INDEXED - 15 RECORDED - 15

100-135-61-127
APR 21 1956

ORDERS

DIRECTOR, FBI

4/10/56

RE: RACIAL SITUATION,
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

story but was told that none was available.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] was unable to furnish any additional information concerning the foregoing matter. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The foregoing is related as being of possible interest to the Bureau. Any additional information received from [REDACTED] will be promptly reported to the Bureau.

Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

April 17, 1956

RECORDED - 15

Director, FBI
100-135-61-127
RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3 cld/gcl

EX-108

Reference is made to my memorandum of February 1, 1956, to Assistant Attorney General Tompkins concerning the bombing of the homes of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and E. D. Nixon.

[REDACTED]

Through a variety of alleged sources of information which consist mostly of maids serving in white homes in Montgomery, Alabama, and based largely on rumor, the following story concerning the bombing of the two residences mentioned above has been circulated. Mr. T. P. Sellers,

on or about the third night after the bombing of the residence of Nixon was allegedly admitted to the St. Margaret's Hospital in Montgomery suffering from severe injury to one arm and burns in other places on his body allegedly resulting from an explosion. Sellers was allegedly treated at that hospital and after an unnamed physician allegedly dropped the case, Sellers was transferred to the Veterans Administration Hospital at Montgomery, where his arm was amputated and he later died as a result of this injury.

The story continues that news articles allegedly appeared in the "Luverne Journal", Luverne, Alabama, and in the "Greenville Advocate", Greenville, Alabama, after February 4, 1956, which related to the injury and amputation of Mr. T. P. Sellers' arm.

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

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EWS
NEWS
(5)
SEE NOTE PAGE 2
ST B H

MAR 12 4 21 PM '56

MAILED 12
APR 17 1956

Handwritten signatures and initials: J.P. [unclear], [unclear]

Memorandum to Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

[redacted] allegedly attempted to secure a
copy of the article in the Laverne paper but was told that
none was available.

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[redacted]
[redacted] was unable to furnish any additional
information concerning this matter.

It is requested that you advise whether or not
any investigation by this Bureau is desired concerning the
information set forth herein.

cc: Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

NOTE: In view of the fact that this appears to be based
solely on rumor and might, if any investigation
is conducted without a request from the Department, put
the Bureau in an embarrassing position, it is felt the
matter should be referred to Mr. Olney as to an opinion of
investigation.

Information received from public sources and through
informants ~~XXXX~~ has been sent to Tompkins and Olney by
Domestic Intelligence Div. purely for their information.
No indication of Bureau violation. Montgomery PD investigated
but no persons arrested for bombings.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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Letter to SAC, Mobile

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

You should make every effort to obtain additional details concerning these NAACP meetings and any bombings from established informants and sources of your office.

All pertinent data in referenced airtel of interest to local law enforcement agencies in the territory covered by the Mobile office should be furnished these agencies without delay.

[REDACTED]

All pertinent information obtained by the Mobile office as a result of these inquiries should be furnished the Bureau and other interested offices without delay.

For the information of the Chicago office, Bureau files contain no record of [REDACTED] the International Constitutional Church Association or "Mission of Mercy."

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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100-135-61-NR 4/18/50

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 4/19/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Bacon

As a matter of possible interest to the Bureau, two copies of the following newspaper item are enclosed:

Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, 4/16/56, captioned "KING REFUSES COMMENT ON STATION WAGON BUYING."

The Bureau will continue to be advised of all pertinent developments in captioned matter.

Enc. (2) ENCLOSURE
(2) - Bureau (100-155261)
1 - Mobile (44-439)
-mem
(3)

EX - 134

7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3 dcl/gcl

*1cc encl
to [unclear]
4-26-56
[unclear]*

A

FBI
APR 27 1956

RECORDED - 7
EX - 134

100-135-61-128

6 APR 23 1956

66 APR 27 1956

[Signature]

King Refuses Comment On Station Wagon Buying

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. today declined to either confirm or deny a Negro magazine story which said that he was purchasing 20 new station wagons in Birmingham for use by the Montgomery Improvement Assn., an organization which he heads.

The current issue of Jet Magazine, a weekly publication, says that the purchase of the station wagons is being made because a group headed by King was refused a franchise two weeks ago to operate a Negro bus line in Montgomery, now in its fifth month of a racial boycott against city buses.

In a telephone interview today, King said he would rather make no comment on the Jet story today.

"But I can definitely say," he declared, "that the Montgomery Improvement Assn. is not buying the station wagons."

Asked if the station wagons were being purchased with money donated from elsewhere, King said he had no comment. Neither would he comment on the use to be made of the station wagons—when and if they are purchased.

King did say he might have a full statement to be released "later on." He denied that he was the source of the Jet story.

"They just picked up their information by the wayside," the 27-year-old boycott leader declared.

Two weeks ago today the city commission, sitting in special session, rejected a plea from a Ne-

gro group led by King who sought to establish and operate a bus line in Montgomery exclusively for Negroes.

King today had no comment on whether the alleged purchasing of the station wagons was connected with the city's refusal of a Negro bus line creation.

The commission denied the franchise application on the grounds that the present bus company, Montgomery City Lines, Inc., is offering "excellent bus service for the entire city."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/24/83 BY Sp3 uc/yc

Alabama Journal
Montgomery, Alabama
Date 4-16-56
Page 5A

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

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

100-135-61-128
ENCLOSURE

F B I

Date: 4-17-56

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

From SAC, BIRMINGHAM (100-3080)

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

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	

RACON - MOBILE

Remyairtel 4-16-56.

According to press reports, two statements by defendants charged with the attack on Singer NAT (KING) COLE were read in Recorders Court today and trial was postponed until 9:00 a.m., Wednesday. E. L. VINSON, one of those charged, was quoted as saying that the attackers thought "they would induce the crowd to walk out" on COLE. ORLISS CLEVINGER, 18, made a statement that the attack was planned about a week before the concert.

The Bureau will be kept advised concerning further developments in this matter.

FULTS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3cljpl

Mr. Rosen

cc: MR. BELMONT
AND SUPERVISOR
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

100-135-61-129

RECORDED - 34

18 APR 18 1956

2-Bureau
1-Birmingham

EX-108

APR 18 2 24 PM '56

FBI - MOBILE
REC'D

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

70 APR 26 1956

XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-135-61-130

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

April 24, 1956

7C

Director, FBI
100-135-61-130
RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Wing-p-34

EX-113

[REDACTED]

b1

(c)

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

100-135-61

2cc - Newark (100-41635)
cc - Mobile (44-439) (Information)

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

NOTE FOR SAC, NEWARK:

Reurairtel dated April 18, 1956.

You should continue to advise the Bureau and the Mobile Office of all pertinent information received by your office [REDACTED]

COMM-FBI
APR 24 1956
MAILED 25

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

b1
MAY 1 1956
DEPT. OF JUSTICE
MAY 2 10 10 AM '56

RECEIVED BOARDMAN
FMB
WCF
MAY 1 1956

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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

DATE: 4/23/56

FROM: SAC, WFO (100-32895)

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA **RACON**

Re Mobile letter 4/10/56, re existence of publication called "American Capsule News."

There is no reference in WFO files to "American Capsule News" or "Capsule News."

[REDACTED]

7c

RUC.

- 2- Bureau
- 2- Mobile (44-439)AM
- 1- WFO
- rmy
- (5)

7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3ck/gcl

J

EX-121

39

RECORDED-37
EX-121

100-135-61-151
26
23 APR 26 1956

FBI
REC'D
MAY 3 1956

71 MAY 1 1956

[REDACTED]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-135-61) DATE: 4/25/56
 FROM : SAC, MOBILE (100-1342)
 SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION FACON
 STATE OF ALABAMA

Re teletype from Bureau dated 4/21/56.

Pursuant to Bureau instructions liaison is being maintained with appropriate local authorities in this matter. On 4/10/56, [redacted] and [redacted] of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division, advised that they were in receipt of the information disseminated by the Bureau under date of 4/12/56, and arrangements were made for any pertinent information coming to their attention to be referred to this office.

7C

For the confidential information of the Bureau and not for dissemination, it has been reasonably well established through further contacts had with OSI SA JOSEPH RATLIFF, Craig Air Force Base, Selma, Alabama, that the original confidential source of the information in this case

b7D
per
AFOSI

[redacted]

With reference to Mobile teletype dated 3/30/56, the individual referred to as [redacted] is not known through the usual published sources as being a registered minister or preacher. Further inquiries will be made and the Bureau will be advised.

7C

- ② - Bureau (100-135-61) (RM)
- 2 - Mobile (100-1342)
- [redacted] Acl
- (4)

7C

100-135-61-132
 RECORDED - 19
 APR 30 1956
 [Signature]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 3/24/83 BY Sp3 ctk/pcl EX-103

55 MAY 3 1956

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

Mr. Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Boardman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Parsons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tamm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Winterrowd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Holloman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY SP3 clg/cl

APR 24 1956

TELETYPE

FBI, MOBILE 4-24-56 6-45 PM NPO

DIRECTOR, FBI ... U R G E N T ...

ORACON - MOBILE

RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY. REMYTEL TODAY. MONTGOMERY CITY COMMISSION, SPEAKING THROUGH POLICE COMMISSIONER CLYDE SELLERS, STATED TO PRESS EARLY AFTERNOON APR. TWENTYFOUR THAT IT DOES NOT CONSIDER THE APR. TWENTYTHIRD DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT AS NULLIFYING ALA. LAWS OR CITY ORDINANCES AND THAT, THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION EXPECTS THE BUS CO. AND OTHER PERSONS TO ABIDE BY EXISTING LAWS AND ORDINANCES. SELLERS IS QUOTED IN ALA. JOURNAL OF APR. TWENTYFOUR AS SAYING "I-LL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ARRESTS AND I-LL GIVE THE DIRECT ORDERS FOR THOSE ARRESTS. AS FAR AS I-M CONCERNED THIS DAMN THING APPLIES TO SOUTH CAROLINA ONLY. UNTIL THEY TELL US IN THIS SUIT FILED HERE THAT OUR SEGREGATION LAWS ARE NO LONGER IN EFFECT I-M GOING TO ENFORCE ALL CITY LAWS TO MAINTAIN SEGREGATION." THE ALA. JOURNAL QUOTES REV. M. KING, JR. AS SAYING THAT IN VIEW OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN OUR POSITION IMMEDIATELY. HE WAS SPEAKING FOR THE MONTGOMERY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION. THE JOURNAL STATES ALSO THAT C. C. OWEN, PRESIDENT, ALA. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, WIRED NATIONAL CITY LINES, CHICAGO, PARENT FIRM

Handwritten signatures and initials:
Bamford
McGowan
Mont

Handwritten: 7C
Redacted area: [Blacked out]

END PAGE ONE

Mr. Belmont

58 MAY 1 1956

APR 27 1956

RECORDED 100-135-67-1

PAGE TWO ...

OF MONTGOMERY CITY LINES, DEMANDING THAT THE INTEGRATION
ORDER ON BUSES IN MONTGOMERY BE WITHDRAWN. HE DIRECTED ALL
PUBLIC CARRIERS IN ALA. TO ~~QUOTE~~ "STRICTLY ADHERE TO ALL
PRESENT EXISTING SEGREGATION LAWS IN OUR STATE OR SUFFER THE
CONSEQUENCES." ~~QUOTE~~. OWEN-S WIRE IS FURTHER QUOTED AS ~~QUOTE~~
"I HEREBY DEFY THE RULING HANDED DOWN BY THE U. S. SUPREME
COURT." ~~QUOTE~~.

[REDACTED]

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END PAGE TWO ..

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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For your information: _____

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X FOR THIS PAGE X
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 24 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/25/83 BY sp3cl/gcl TELETYPE

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

SAC, MOBILE 4-24-56 1-55PM BJJ

DIRECTOR, FBI URGENT
ORACON - MOBILE
RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALA. FOLLOWING APRIL TWENTYTHIRD

DECISION OF SUPREME COURT HOLDING SEGREGATION IN INTRASTATE
BUSES UNCONSTITUTIONAL, MAYOR W. A. GAYLE, MONTGOMERY,
ALA., STATED TO PRESS ~~QUOTE~~ "WE ARE GOING AHEAD AND ENFORCE
SEGREGATION ON BUSES JUST AS WE HAVE BEEN DOING" ~~UNQUOTE~~.

HOWEVER, MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER, APRIL TWENTYFOUR, CONTAINS
ARTICLE ON FRONT PAGE BY JOE AZBELL THAT MONTGOMERY CITY
LINES, BUS COMPANY, POSTED NOTICE ON COMPANY BULLETIN BOARD
NIGHT OF APRIL TWENTYTHIRD ADVISING DRIVERS NOT TO ASSIGN
SEATS ACCORDING TO RACE IN FUTURE REFERRING TO SUPREME COURT
DECISION. THE MEMO SIGNED BY J. H. BAGLEY, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT,
SAID, ~~QUOTE~~ "UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE COMPANY HAS NO CHOICE
EXCEPT TO DISCONTINUE THE PRACTICE OF SEGREGATION OF PASSENGERS
ON ACCOUNT OF RACE" ~~UNQUOTE~~.

[REDACTED SECTION]

END PAGE ONE
58 MAY 1 1956
Mr. Belmont

APR 24 1956

PAGE TWO

[REDACTED]

7C
7D

BUREAU WILL BE IMMEDIATELY ADVISED.

HALLFORD

END AND ACK PLS
2-58 PM OK FBI WA EP
TU DISCO¹
YOU THERE

RECEIVED

MR. BELMONT
AND SUPERVISOR
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

[REDACTED]

7C

FBI
RECEIVED
FEB 50 8 21 AM '50

FBI

Date: 4/24/56

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)

PRECEDENCE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

INDEX

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS

RE: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Re New Orleans air-tel to Director, 4/18/56, reporting that Democratic Representative ADAM CLAYTON POWELL of New York and Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING of Montgomery, Alabama would be speakers at the Fifth Annual meeting of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership at Jackson, Mississippi, 4/27/56.

The Times Picayune, New Orleans newspaper, 4/24/56 issue, reported that Governor J. P. COLEMAN of Mississippi stated he had asked POWELL and KING to skip the meeting referred to above which, according to the article, was expected to draw 10,000 Mississippi negroes to Jackson, Mississippi this weekend. The article quoted the Governor as saying that in the light of recent tranquillity it would be a tragedy to have professional agitators like POWELL and KING come to that state and "fan the fires anew."

The article reported that KING had declined an invitation to speak at the Friday meeting to be held in Jackson, Mississippi and in New York POWELL said previous commitments would prevent his going to Mississippi as scheduled.

The Bureau and Mobile will be advised of any pertinent information received which may relate to the racial situation in Montgomery, Alabama resulting from the 4/27/56 meeting of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership at Jackson, Mississippi.

COPIES

- 3 - Bureau (100-135-61) (REGISTERED AIR MAIL)
- 3 - Mobile (2-44-439; 1 - 100-1320) (REGISTERED)
- 1 - Memphis (Info.) (REGISTERED AIR MAIL)
- 4 - New Orleans
 - 2 - 100-15927
 - 1 - 100-13182
 - 1 - 100-15424

RECORDED - 84 100-135-61-135

2 APR 25 1956

Mr. Belmont

(11)

CO: MR. BELMONT
DOM. INTL. DIVISION EX - 120
MAY 2 1956

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/5/83 BY [signature]

FBI

Date: 4/26/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

REGISTERED

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, DETROIT (100-25025)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI

RACIAL SITUATION - Montgomery, Alabama.

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

DAYLET. The 4/28/56 Detroit edition of the "Pittsburgh Courier" on Page 1, Section 2, Columns 3 and 4, carried an article "UAW Vows to Aid 'Bama Boycotters." This article states that the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, has received pledged support from a number of UAW local unions (Detroit area) which have promised to send \$100 monthly to the Montgomery Improvement Association as long as the boycott continues.

Article continues that these locals, all members of UAW Region One, raised more than \$2,000, which money was turned over to E. D. NIXON, Treasurer of the MIA, who was principal speaker at a rally held at Chrysler Local 212, UAW, Detroit. The article states that NIXON had said the boycott had cost \$14,000 per month to finance.

Two copies of article attached for Bureau.

The "Pittsburgh Courier" is a weekly newspaper reporting on activities of the Negro community.

BROWN

- 3 - Bureau (Encl. 2) (REGISTERED)
- 2 - Mobile (1 - 100- RACIAL SITUATION) (REGISTERED)
- 3 - Detroit (1 - 100-19944 DAYLET)
(1 - 100-25025)
(1 - 100-6075 UAW-CIO)

ENCLOSURE

RECORDED-125

100-135-61-136

Mr. Belmont

APR 27 1956

AIRTEL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/25/87 BY 4336/90

Approved: [Signature] Special Agent in Charge

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7C

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7C

UAW Vows to Aid Bama Boycotters

The bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala., has received pledged support from a number of UAW local unions, which promised to send \$100 a month for as long as the boycott continues to the Montgomery Improvement Association, the organization spearheading the fight against discrimination and segregation on the bus lines.

The locals, all members of UAW Region One, raised more than two thousand dollars and turned the money over to E. D. Nixon, treasurer of the MIA, who was the principal speaker at a rally held at Chrysler Local 212.

The large gathering of officers and members of the region, and several high officials of the International Union, heard Nixon say that the boycott would continue until segregation is "eliminated or we will never ride again." He said it costs \$14,000 a month to finance the boycott.

He pointed out the White Citizens Council's efforts to force Negroes to ride the buses have failed, and continued:

"Many of our people have lost their jobs, have been arrested, intimidated and threat-

ened . . . several homes have been burned, including mine, and ninety-three of us are facing a possible jail sentence of six months and \$1,000 fines.

"But our cause is so strong and well organized that even if all those under indictment go to jail the boycott will continue."

Norman R. Matthews, a UAW vice president, said "We are going to fight" because "if the boycott falls, discrimination will spread to industry and we all will be out of jobs. Industry will move down there when non-union workers will take our jobs at the minimum national wage scale.

"It's not race against race," he added, "but right against wrong."

Also speaking at the rally were Pat Greathouse, another UAW vice president; Pat Caruso, president of Local 212, and Ken Morris, of Region One

- () Glos Ludowy
- () Michigan Editor-The Worker
- () The Daily Worker
- () Narodna Volya
- () Ken's American
- () Pat's Courier
- () M. J. Chronicle
- () Detroit Press
- () Detroit News
- () Detroit Free Press
- () Michigan Daily
- () Wayne County

Date 4-28-56 Edition DETROIT

Page 1 Sec. 2 Column 3-4

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DATE 3/25/83 BY sp3cl/gcl

100 155-61-150
ENCLOSURE

The following original pages are of poor quality. UPA has made every technical effort to provide the best possible reproduction.

cc - Liaison Section
Mr. [redacted]

7C

100-135-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/26/83 BY [signature]

Date: April 27, 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 previous memoranda concerning the boycott of the city buses in Montgomery, Alabama, by Negroes and activity on the part of the Socialist Workers Party in connection with this boycott.

For your further information Police Commissioner Clyde Sellers, following the April 23, 1956, ruling of the United States Supreme Court ~~that the~~ on appeal by ~~the~~ ~~Montgomery~~ ~~City~~ ~~Commission~~ ~~does~~ ~~not~~ ~~consider~~ the Supreme Court decision as nullifying Alabama laws or city ordinances. Therefore, the Montgomery City Commission expects the Montgomery City Lines, which company operates the buses in the city of Montgomery, and other persons to abide by existing laws.

2cc - Mobile (see note on page 4)

COMM - FBI
APR 27 1956
MAILED 30

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

cc - New Orleans (Information)

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

RECORDED - 64 EX-109

BY COURIER SVC
22 APR 30
A.F. only
COMM - FBI

MAY 1 1956

63 MAY 4 1956

61-137
[Handwritten signatures and initials]

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

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[REDACTED]

7D

[REDACTED]

**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.**

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

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.

NOTE FOR SAC, MOBILE:

Reurtels April 24, 1956.

You should continue to advise the Bureau
of all pertinent developments received by your office
in connection with the above matter.

FBI *cal*

Date: 4/11/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, CHICAGO (100-31900)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI *Racon - mobile*

RACIAL SITUATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Complainant believes literature can trigger off an armed conflict in the South because of its viciousness, particularly info set forth in paragraph four of alleged transcription of speech by ROOSEVELT WILLIAMS OF NAACP at meeting in 12/54. One item of literature is described as issued as an educational service by your "C.A.C.C." and purports to be content of speech delivered by one ROOSEVELT WILLIAMS, a negro high in the councils of the NAACP, at secret NAACP meeting in Mississippi in 12/54.

- 3 - Bureau (Encls.-2) (AM-REGISTERED)
- 1 - Birmingham (Encls.-2) (AM-REGISTERED)
- 1 - Detroit (Encls.-2) (AM-REGISTERED)
- 1 - Little Rock (Encls.-2) (AM-REGISTERED)
- 1 - Memphis (Encls.-2) (AM-REGISTERED)
- 1 - Mobile (Encls.-2) (AM-REGISTERED)
- 1 - Chicago

gh **7C**
Mr. Belmont

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge
58 MAY 8 1956

RECORDED - 37
INDEXED - 37
EX-108

MAY 1 1956

Letter to Belmont 4/11/56
4/12/56
more papers given to Belmont 4/11/56

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 3/25/83 BY *[Signature]*
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F B I

Date:

Transmit the following message via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC,

To:

PAGE THREE

7C
7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Both complainants were specifically interrogated for knowledge of firearms being sent to negroes in the South. Both denied knowledge of any such shipments from the Chicago area

Approved:

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following message via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC,

To:

PAGE FOUR

to negroes in the South. They advised that their sources report that the negroes in the South cannot purchase firearms there but that the whites have reportedly purchased quantities of firearms.

TC
DD
[Redacted]

Submitted for information.

HOSTETTER

CC: MR. BELMONT
AND SUPERVISOR
INTEL DIVISION

MAR 15 1964

FBI
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge 4

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

cc - L M. vtion

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
SERVICES
ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF Class/10/2
DATE 7/12/80

100-135-61

100-135-61-139

RECORDED 13

Date: May 1, 1956

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

EX-108

Attention: Chief, Security Division

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Classified by Ag 3 clc/9cl
Declassify on: OADR 3/25/83

Reference is made to my previous memoranda concerning the boycott of the city buses in Montgomery, Alabama, by Negroes and the activities of the Socialist Workers Party in connection with this boycott.

[REDACTED]

7D

7C
7D

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE
Classified by Ag 3 clc/10cl
Declassify on: OADR 3/25/83

DEB: Mobile (Information)
Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
 Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

MAY 8 1956

COMM - FBI
MAY 1 1956
MAILED 25

BY COURIER SVC
AF ONLY
26 MAY 21
COMM - FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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- 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.

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The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
 100-135-61-139

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

b1 [REDACTED] (c)

*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 2
4th and Adams Drive, S. W.
Washington, D. C.*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 4/26/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

RA: ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY *Apille/pe*

Remytels 4/24/56.

Forwarded herewith are two copies each of the following newspaper clippings pertaining to captioned matter:

1. "DRIVERS TOLD TO STOP ENFORCEMENT - CITY THREATENS ARRESTS HERE TO ENFORCE BUS SEGREGATION," Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, 4/24/56.
2. "SELLERS DEFIES COURT'S RULING," *ibid.*
3. "NEW BUS ORDER STARTS QUIETLY," *ibid.*
4. "CITY LINES DRIVERS ORDERED TO HALT SEGREGATED SEATING," Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, 4/24/56.
5. "CITY LINES OFFICIAL HOLDS CAUTIOUS PRESS SESSION," Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Alabama, 4/25/56.
6. "BUS LINE WARNED TO OBEY LAWS BY DEFIANT CITY COMMISSION," *ibid.*
7. "FOUR NEW STATION WAGONS BOUGHT BY NEGRO CHURCHES," *ibid.*

For further information of the Bureau, no incidents or arrests have occurred pertaining to captioned matter. Bureau will be promptly advised of all pertinent developments.

2 - Bureau (Encl. 14) (100-135-61)

1 - Mobile (44-439)

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(3)

RECORDED-42

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FBI EX-108

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70 MAY 7 - 1956

100-135-61-140
17 MAY 2 1956
EX-108
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UNIT SEC

**HEADLINE:
DRIVERS TOLD TO STOP ENFORCEMENT
CITY THREATENS ARRESTS HERE TO
ENFORCE BUS SEGREGATION**

Few Negroes Ride Public Vehicles As Ban Is Lifted

By JOE JONES

Racial segregation on Montgomery city buses was abolished today in the face of defiant protests from city and state officials.

Buses operated by Montgomery City Lines Inc., boycotted by Negroes for nearly five months, abandoned the traditional segregation of white and Negro passengers in the wake of yesterday's Supreme Court ruling.

The City Commission issued a statement early this afternoon saying it does not consider the Supreme Court decision as nullifying "Alabama laws or city ordinances by which we are governed."

"We therefore," the brief statement said, "expect the bus company and all other persons to abide by all existing laws and ordinances."

FEW NEGROES ON BUSES

Relatively few Negroes patronized buses this morning — and all that were observed continued to occupy rear seats, in spite of the court's order.

On another front, C. C. (Jack) Owen, president of the Alabama Public Service Commission, sent a telegram to National City Lines of Chicago, parent firm of the local bus company, demanding that the integration order on buses here be withdrawn. He also directed all public carriers in the state to "strictly adhere to all present existing segregation laws in our state or suffer the consequences."

Owen wired President Roy Fitzgerald of National City Lines that "I hereby defy the ruling handed down by the U. S. Supreme Court."

Alabama Journal
Montgomery, Alabama
Date 4-24-56
Page 1

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

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DATE 3/29/83 BY [signature]

ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-140

STATE LAW STANDS

"Alabama state law requiring segregation of the races on buses still stands. I demand that you withdraw your order approving integration on your buses in Montgomery," the telegram stated.

In Chicago, National Lines Vice President B. W. Franklin told the Associated Press: "We are not going to enforce segregation."

The Commission's statement came after Police Commissioner Clyde Sellers vowed to arrest anybody who violates city segregation ordinances.

"I'll be responsible for any arrest and I'll give the direct orders for those arrests. As far as I'm concerned this damn thing (the ruling) applies to South Carolina only. Until they tell us in this suit filed here that our segregation laws are no longer in effect, I'm going to enforce all city laws to maintain segregation," Sellers said.

Meanwhile, a leader of the Negro bus boycott issued a statement saying "there will be no change in our present position immediately."

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. said "rumors that we are to have a mass meeting tonight are false. We will hold a regular mass meeting Thursday night at the Day Street Baptist Church," he said in a statement issued through Negro Atty. Fred D. Gray.

"In view of the current happenings, there will be no change in our present position immediately," the statement said.

King was speaking as president of the Montgomery Improvement Assn., organization formed to support the boycott.

Gray indicated that the MIA might make an effort to confer with City Bus Lines Manager J. H. Bagley, although he did not reveal the nature of such a conference.

King, who was convicted of violating Alabama's anti-boycott law for his part in the bus protest, said he did not believe news of (BUS DESEGREGATION, 2-A)

Bus Desegregation

(Continued From Page 1-A)

the end of segregation had spread enough to bring many Negroes back to riding the buses this morning.

City officials had insisted yesterday afternoon that segregation would be maintained despite the high court's ruling.

R. C. Mills, assistant superintendent of transportation for Montgomery City Lines, said "everything is going along fine. We aren't expecting any trouble from our Negroes here. If we have any trouble it will be from outside agitation."

The company posted a notice last night saying it would comply with the U. S. Supreme Court ruling holding bus segregation unconstitutional.

NO TROUBLE EXPECTED

"Everything's working out fine. We don't expect any trouble," Mills said.

Mills said the company will continue to provide separate school buses for white and Negro children because the routing of the buses to white and Negro schools "automatically segregates them."

The school buses operate in the morning and afternoon on special routes, hauling only school children.

The first buses to roll under the tradition-smashing edict did not begin operating until after 5 a. m. Most of the drivers on the early shift first learned of the desegregation order when they reported to work at dawn.

BUS LINE IN MIDDLE

The order to stop assigning seats according to race put the bus company squarely in the middle between the Supreme Court ruling and a stern warning earlier yesterday from Montgomery Mayor W. A. Gayle to continue strict racial segregation.

The directive bore the name of bus company Manager J. H. Bagley, who was unavailable for comment today.

Before the desegregation order was posted, Gayle hinted legal action might be taken if bus officials disregarded state and city laws requiring segregation. He could not be reached immediately today for comment on what steps if any were planned now that the company has done away with racially separate seating requirements.

King, pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, predicted Negroes would continue to refuse to ride the buses until a mass meeting is held for them to decide if their demands have been satisfactorily met.

He said the bus company's action would seem to satisfy demands for unsegregated seating and courtesy to Negro patrons from bus drivers. But King pointed out that the boycotters have also asked that Negro drivers be employed on predominantly Negro routes.

"NO CHANGE"—GAYLE

When the Supreme Court ruling was announced yesterday, Mayor Gayle emphasized there would be "no change" in the City Commission's policy. "We will do everything in our power to maintain segregation on city buses."

"We're going to enforce the state and city ordinances just as we have been doing," Gayle added, "and we expect the bus company to continue to abide by these laws."

Gayle and Commissioners Sellers and Frank Parks joined the pro-white Montgomery Citizens Council last December after initial efforts to end the Negro bus boycott proved unsuccessful.

The boycott has been in rigid effect since last Dec. 5 when Rosa Parks, a Negro seamstress, was fined \$14 in police court because she refused to move to the back of a bus.

80 NEGROES INDICTED

A Montgomery County Grand Jury indicted 80 Negro leaders about three months ago for violating Alabama's anti-boycott law.

King, the first and only Negro tried thus far, was convicted and has appealed a \$500 fine.

The young minister said the MIA's "strategy committee" would meet this afternoon to discuss the desegregation decree. Recommendations will be made to the group's executive board, he explained, and the question of ending the boycott would be submitted to a vote at a mass meeting of Negroes.

The bus company's typewritten notice to its employes that separation of the races would no longer be required became known late last night.

The notice said:

"We have been advised that today the Supreme Court of the United States rendered a decision the effect of which is to hold unconstitutional segregation of the races on buses.

Under the circumstances, the company has no choice except to discontinue the practice of segregation of passengers on account of race and drivers will no longer assign seats to passengers by reason of their race."

SUBSIDIARY OF CHICAGO LINE

The local company is a subsidiary of National City Lines, Inc., of Chicago, which operates bus franchises in more than 30 cities throughout the nation.

The mass refusal of Negroes to ride the Montgomery buses has forced the company to raise its fares 50 per cent and drastically curtail operations. It has been estimated that 95 per cent of the Negro customers, who once made up about 75 per cent of the total patronage, have stopped riding buses.

Lately in the boycott, officials of both the Montgomery affiliate and the parent firm issued statements saying the company had no choice but to maintain segregated seating because of the state law. The order last night to integrate came as a surprise since the Supreme Court ruling did not directly affect buses in Alabama. No action was expected here until at least May 11 when a three-judge panel is scheduled to hear a federal suit attacking state and city segregation laws as unconstitutional.

The suit was filed by four Montgomery Negro women as an out-

Sellers Defies Court's Ruling

Police Commissioner Clyde Sellers today vowed to arrest anybody—U. S. Supreme Court ruling to the contrary—who violates city segregation laws on buses operated by Montgomery City Lines, Inc.

"I'll be responsible for any arrests and I'll give the direct orders for those arrests," said Sellers, who was the first of the three members of the City Commission to join the pro-segregation White Citizens Council.

Bus drivers who permit desegregation on their buses also face prosecution, Sellers said.

Plagued into the wee hours of the morning by out-of-town newspaper reporters calling long distance, Sellers made no bones about being in a foul mood this morning.

"Irrespective of what the other two members may feel," he thundered, "as far as I'm concerned this damn thing applies to South Carolina only. Until they tell us in this suit filed here that it applies to us, I'm going to enforce all city laws to maintain segregation. That's the way I feel. I'm a southern white man and I want to continue to be one."

Sellers said he got little sleep last night because of answering his telephone and offered a sort of time-table in evidence.

"At 12:30 a.m. it was the Birmingham News calling," he said. "New York called at 1:05. At 1:50 it was Chicago. And then Detroit at 2:50. Baltimore phoned at 3:15."

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Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

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ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-140

New Bus Order Starts Quietly

By BUNNY BONICKER

The first Supreme Court-desegregated Montgomery City Lines bus to roll into Court Square today pulled to a halt at 5:35 a.m.

One lone, aged Negro woman climbed aboard. She paid her fare. Long habit apparently provided a greater pull on her spindly legs than a U. S. Supreme Court ruling—she shuffled to the rear and sat down. The driver waited until she was seated and then slowly pulled off.

She was the only passenger on the bus. It was labeled "Capital Heights."

ALL TAKE REAR SEATS

Later other Negro bus patrons—seldom more than one or two at a time—boarded the buses at Court Square. As many as five Negroes—all women—were seen on a bus bound for Gunter Air Force Base. They all sat as far back in the rear as the seats would go.

One elderly white woman, who was sitting toward the rear, got up and moved toward the front when two Negro women got on the bus. (She evidently had been accustomed to riding on all-white buses since the racial boycott began last Dec. 5 and simply forgot that Negroes probably would start riding again today.)

While Negro patronage was seen to pick up slightly early today, it was still no where near what it once was.

"And it never will be," one white bus rider remarked. "Too many of 'em have bought automobiles now."

WHITE WOMAN GIVES VIEW

A middle-aged white woman, who declined to be quoted by name, said she didn't look for any trouble. "But," she quickly added, "if a Negro should sit by me, 'I'll just get up and let him have the whole seat.'"

Although a relatively few Negroes were congregating around the downtown bus stops, the Montgomery Improvement Assn's car pool pickup station on McDonough Street was doing as booming a business as ever. One new Chevrolet station wagon picked up a nice flock of customers. Whether it was one of the 20 new station wagons rumored to have been purchased by Rev. Martin Luther King recently is unknown. Contacted about the alleged purchase of the station wagons from a Birmingham auto dealer, King declined to confirm or deny the story.

During the pre-rush hours today, the buses came and went, carrying a trickling of white passengers. An occasional Negro was seen but none had taken advantage of the company order giving them equal seating.

Amos West, a laborer, waited at a street corner for a ride in a car pool. "We won't ride until we're told it's okey," West said. Others nodded their approval.

Fred Gray, 25-year-old attorney who's representing the boycott leaders in their litigation with the city and state, said the boycott probably will continue "until we've gotten our three demands."

They include courteous treatment, desegregated seating and Negro drivers for predominantly Negro areas. The first two already have been granted.

Bus drivers represented an unhappy lot today. At 5 a.m., while assignments were being handed out at the City Lines bus office, tempers were short. Newspaper reporters were barred from the building.

Drivers declined to discuss either publicly or privately—their feelings on the new order. But their faces were sullen; some showed outright anger.

This reporter entered the City Lines dispatcher's office and was ordered to leave. I tried to read a notice on the drivers' bulletin board before leaving and was forcibly ejected. A bus driver even plains-

clothesman—probably a night watchman—put a beefy hand on my shoulder and rasped, "This is not for you to read."

"Why not?" I asked. "This is not for you to read," he repeated and shoved me to the door. I got the point and left.

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ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-140

City Lines Drivers Ordered A 24 To Halt Segregated Seating

Firm Defies Commission On Race Bar

By JOE AZBELL
and AL McCONAGHA

Montgomery City Lines last night posted a notice on its bulletin board at its main office here ordering an end to segregation on city buses.

The letter to "all employees" on the subject of "seating on buses" was signed by J. H. Bagley, general superintendent.

It was understood that the order originated in Chicago at the home office of the National City Lines, Inc., operators of the Montgomery City Lines, and Bagley was merely carrying out instructions from his superiors.

'NO CHOICE'

The letter states: "We have been advised that today, Monday, April 23, 1956, the Supreme Court of the United States rendered a decision the effect of which is to hold unconstitutional segregation of races on buses.

"Under the circumstances, the company has no choice except to discontinue the practice of segregation of passengers on account of race and drivers will no longer assign seats to passengers by reason of their race."

Copies of the order were sent to K. E. Totten and B. W. Franklin, officials of the National City Lines in Chicago.

It was understood the order goes into effect at 5 a.m. today.

Two Advertiser reporters were the first newsmen to hear of the order. They made efforts to reach Bagley and Atty. Jack Crosshaw but finally went to the bus lines office where they read the bulletin on the board.

Bus drivers in the room at the time said they had been aware of the order for some little time.

The order apparently was in defiance of the Montgomery City Commission which yesterday issued a statement that the city would continue to enforce segregation laws despite the Supreme Court ruling outlawing bus segregation intrastate.

The Supreme Court yesterday refused to review an appeal from the U.S. Circuit Court, Richmond, Va., declaring segregation on buses within states as a violation of the federal constitution.

Mayor W. A. Gayle said he hadn't studied the court case as yet but that he would continue to enforce state and city ordinances in regard to segregation on buses.

"We are going ahead and enforce segregation on buses just as we have been doing," he said.

The speculation thus arises on what will happen if the bus company drivers carry out their order from their executives and the city carries out its orders to enforce segregation laws.

Also the action by the bus company could have the effect of ending the five-months' boycott of Montgomery Negroes against the bus company.

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ENCLOSURE

The boycott began over segregated seating on buses arising from the arrest of a Negro woman, Rosa Park on Dec. 1, 1955. The woman refused to move to a rear section of the bus and was fined \$14 in Recorder's Court for violation of the segregation law.

Bagley was not available for comment. Neither was Jack Crenshaw, attorney for the bus lines. Earlier yesterday, Crenshaw stated, "We'll abide by the law."

Offhand it sounds like the court has adopted the same rule. (See FIRM, Page 2A)

(Continued From Page 1)

as that for schools," Crenshaw said. "And if so I would anticipate a court order will be entered here (May 11) along that same line."

Apparently at the time he issued the statement, Crenshaw was not aware of the order being posted on the lines' bulletin board. The order to come from the court here would apply only to Montgomery City Lines buses because Negroes who filed the suit asked only for a decree outlawing segregation in Montgomery.

C. C. (Jack) Owen, president of the Alabama Public Service Commission, declared, "I am continuing to enforce our segregation laws and have no idea of bowing to integration."

Owen, a candidate for reelection, said the segregation laws were designed "to protect the welfare and traditions of our people. I do not believe any other agency can require us to abandon our customs and traditions and the laws which were enacted specifically to carry out our ideals and customs."

NOT IN ALABAMA

He added, "So far as I am concerned, the decision is directed to a South Carolina concern only—and not the buses in Alabama."

"I'm going to continue to enforce the segregation laws in Alabama."

The members of the City Commission withheld any comments on the decision of the bus company last night. Apparently they wanted to study the matter and confer with bus line officials.

A meeting of Negro boycotters was held last night at a Negro church here.

The Rev. M. L. King Jr., one of the 90 Negroes under indictment for violation of the state's anti-boycott laws, said any action on the part of the Negroes would have to come from the newly organized Montgomery Improvement Assn.

The minister said yesterday afternoon that a decision to request the city lines to abandon segregation immediately was something the MIA executive committee would have to decide.

ATTORNEY ACTS AS COACH 3 →

City Lines Official Holds Cautious Press Session

By BUNNY HONICKER

In a guarded statement, a National City Lines executive said here today that his company would rally to the support of any of its Montgomery bus drivers who are arrested for refusing to enforce city and state segregation laws.

B. W. Franklin, vice president of National City Lines, Inc. in Chicago, was asked during a press conference at the Exchange Hotel whether the company would back up drivers who become involved in conflicts with local authorities.

"We don't want any controversy with local authorities," Franklin said during an off-camera warmup conducted by television newscasters. "We try to avoid controversy with anyone. But if our drivers are obeying our instructions — certainly we'll help them."

Asked if he planned to change the orders which instructed Montgomery City Lines and the Chicago company's other affiliates to drop segregation enforcement on its buses, Franklin replied, "No, we don't plan to change the orders."

The television men then asked (See BUS OFFICIAL, Page 2-A)



B. W. FRANKLIN

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ENCLOSURE

100 135-61-140

Bus Official

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Franklin to repeat his statements "on camera." He leaned over and asked his legal counselor, Atty. Robert Thrun of the Chicago legal staff, "I think that's all right, don't you?"

But Thrun, who coached Franklin throughout his press conference, whispered, "I don't think that's a thing to comment on at all."

With the cameras turned on, Franklin then said, "I don't think I will comment on that at the present."

Franklin, who admitted that he was a greenhorn as far as holding press conferences — "This is my first one; I thought they were always held for presidents and movie stars" — was coached on what to say throughout by Atty. Thrun.

Asked if his company would comply with the Alabama Public Service Commission order issued by President C. C. (Jack) Owen, Franklin said he hadn't seen the order and didn't want to comment until he had studied it.

"We informed our operators that they no longer had to enforce segregation (in seating) and that it would be in violation of the Supreme Court if we did," he said.

However, a reporter produced a copy of the wire which PSC President Owen sent to Roy Fitzgerald, president of National City Lines, and asked Franklin if he would like to read the wire and then make a comment on it.

With Thrun shaking his head negatively, Franklin said, "Let Roy Fitzgerald read it first — I've got problems of my own."

Franklin also would not comment on the reports made by some of the local bus drivers, one of whom threatened to kill any Negro who sat near the front.

"I have no personal knowledge of those statements and do not feel free to comment," Franklin said.

Franklin was asked if his company issued the order for immediate desegregation on its buses in order to "get off the hook."

He said the same orders had been issued to other cities, such as Mobile and Jackson, Miss., and "they have had no troubles."

Concerning the third demand of the militant Montgomery Improvement Assn. that Negro drivers be considered for employment on routes predominately Negro in patronage, Franklin had no comment.

"I haven't met any of the Negro leaders yet," he said. "I just got in last night. I can't make any comment until I find out what their position is."

If the racial boycott continues indefinitely, how long will the bus company be able to operate in Montgomery? Franklin was asked.

"I hope it won't continue indefinitely," he said. "It's no secret that we are now operating at a substantial loss in Montgomery. But we have a franchise with the city and have no intention of doing away with out contract . . . We intend to fulfill the contract."

Franklin said he would not admit that his company was now violating city and state laws by ordering immediate desegregation in seating arrangements.

"The Supreme Court says those laws are invalid," he explained.

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ENCLOSURE

100-135-61-140

CONFERENCE WITH TRANSPORT CHIEF SLATED: J 25 1

Bus Line Warned To Obey Laws By Defiant City Commission

By JOE JONES

Montgomery's three city commissioners declared today that Montgomery City Lines Inc. will have to abide by city and state travel segregation laws if it continues to operate here.

They indicated that a court injunction may be sought against City Lines if violation of local segregation statutes is not halted.

"We stand 100 per cent together on this matter," Mayor W. A. Gayle told The Journal.

... certainly we'll help them," he told reporters.

Gayle, Parks and Sellers said they had received numerous messages supporting their pro-segregation stand. Sellers exhibited six out-of-state telegrams and said he received 11 long-distance phone calls last night in support of the statement he issued yesterday.

Sellers joined the other two today in voicing determination to maintain separate seating arrangements for the races: "If the bus company operates in Montgomery it will have to operate under Montgomery and Alabama laws."

ATTORNEYS STUDY CASE

The mayor explained that the 10-year franchise recently granted City Lines does not specifically require segregation. "But as in all contracts," he said, "if one party breaks the law of the land, the contract is subject to cancellation."

Gayle said city attorneys are still trying to determine whether the Monday Supreme Court action applies to Montgomery.

The city can break the contract without court action if the company violates any one of the

(See BUS LINE, Page 2-A)

... an earlier interview, Commissioner Frank Parks said "they (the bus company) have a contract and will have to abide by it or be subject to court action."

BUS PARLY SLATED

The commissioners revealed that they are to confer with City Lines officials on the issue late today or tomorrow morning.

Police Commissioner Clyde Sellers, who yesterday vowed to arrest anybody — including bus drivers — who disregards city segregation ordinances, said today the meeting was being arranged at the request of bus officials.

Representing the bus company will be B. W. Franklin of Chicago, vice president of National City Lines, the firm which operates the local transit firm.

Franklin held a press conference this morning in which he promised to aid bus drivers who are arrested while "obeying our instructions."

WILL BACK DRIVERS

"We don't want any controversy with local authorities . . . but if our drivers are obeying our in-

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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

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Bus Line

(Continued From Page 1-A)

specified provisions, he said.

(Meanwhile in Birmingham, the city's legal department asserted today that racial segregation on buses is still legal despite the Supreme Court decision.

(City Atty. J. H. Willis said the South Carolina case, in which the Supreme Court dismissed an appeal, is still pending in the lower courts. He said the Monday action merely sent the case back to the U. S. District Court for further action, and was not a ruling on the merits of the matter.)

WON'T RECENT ORDER

The National City Lines executive told reporters today that his company doesn't intend to change its orders for desegregation in Montgomery and other Southern cities where the company operates.

"We informed our operators that they no longer had to enforce segregation and that it would be in violation of the supreme court if we did," he explained.

Meanwhile, the five-month-long boycott of the buses by Montgomery Negroes continued despite the integration order.

Negro leaders said a decision on ending the five-month-old protest movement may be made tomorrow night at a mass meeting of members of their race.

Bus officials said the number of Negroes riding yesterday on the first day of desegregation was about the same percentage that has continued to ride despite the boycott. That figure had been previously estimated by the company at from 5 to 15 per cent of the normal load.

The desegregation order and Franklin's statement at Chicago yesterday that the company would make no attempt to enforce segregation on buses drew immediate answer from city and state officials here. They insisted Alabama bus segregation laws are still in effect and would be strictly enforced.

The parent company's decision followed a U.S. Supreme Court ruling Monday holding bus segregation unconstitutional. National City Lines operates bus franchises in several other Southern cities—Mobile, Ala.; Jackson, Miss.; Tampa, Fla.; Tulsa, Okla.; and Beaumont, Wichita Falls and El Paso, Texas.

The three-member Montgomery city commission yesterday issued a warning that it expects "the bus company and all other persons to abide by existing laws and ordinances." They said the Supreme Court ruling affected only South Carolina.

President C. C. Owen of the Alabama Public Service Commission sent a telegram to President Roy Fitzgerald of National City Lines in Chicago demanding withdrawal of the integration order. And he warned all other carriers operating in Alabama to adhere strictly to existing segregation laws "or suffer the consequences."

A boycott leader indicated yesterday that an end to the prolonged protest movement may hinge on the bus company's attitude towards hiring Negro drivers for predominately Negro routes.

NEGROES PLAN MEETING

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Negro Baptist minister, said the boycott would continue at least until the mass meeting tomorrow night. At that time, he said, the Montgomery Improvement Assn. would probably make a recommendation to fellow Negroes or at least "discuss alternatives" for ending the boycott.

King is president of the MIA, a Negro organization formed to promote the boycott which began Dec. 8 in protest to segregated seating on buses. The movement started the day that Mrs. Rosa Parks was fined \$14 for refusing to move to the back of a bus.

King has appealed a \$500 fine he received on conviction of violating Alabama's anti-boycott law. About 70 other Negro leaders were also indicted on the same charge but haven't yet been tried.

J-25 ✓

Four New Station Wagons Bought By Negro Churches

Four Negro churches whose pastors are affiliated with the Montgomery Improvement Assn., an organization spawned by the racial boycott, recently purchased four 1956 Chevrolet station wagons possibly to be used as a small-scale jitney service.

According to records in the office of Probate Judge David E. Dunn, Rev. Martin L. King Jr.'s Church applied for license plates on a new station wagon on April 21.

On the same day, St. John's AME Church, 807 Madison Ave., also applied for license plates on a 1956 Chevrolet station wagon.

On April 19, these two churches applied for licenses: Bethel Baptist Church, 2771 Mobile Rd., Rev. H. J. Hubbard pastor, and Oak Street AMEZ Church, 1500 Oak St., Rev. Arthur W. Murphy pastor.

Only one of the ministers was

available for comment on whether the new station wagons were purchased to aid in the boycott car pool. He was Rev. R. Waldo Hilson, pastor of the Madison Avenue Church, and he denied that his station wagon was purchased, to aid the boycotters.

TRANSPORTS MEMBERS

Rev. Hilson said the station wagon was purchased by the church "for whatever reasons the members see fit." However, he did admit that the vehicle was being used to take riders to and from work in the mornings and home again in the afternoons. He said he was unaware that King's church had applied for license plates on the same day. He also claimed to have no knowledge of the fact that two other Negro churches applied for licenses two days before.

Asked if his church's station wagon was charging fares, Hilson replied, "We don't have licenses for that. Our services are free. It's just our way of saying 'thanks' to all our members."

Rev. King, who would neither confirm or deny an earlier story that he had purchased 20 new station wagons in Birmingham for use of the Montgomery Improvement was "in conference" at the MIA office today and unavailable for comment.

A Negro magazine this month claimed that King had purchased 20 new station wagons after the Montgomery City Commission refused his plea for the creation of a Montgomery jitney bus franchise here.

Alabama Journal
Montgomery, Alabama
Date 4-25-56
Page 2

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY sp3cle/ycl

ENCLOSURE

F B I

Date: 4-30-56

- 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, Birmingham (100-3080)

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

RACON. - MOBILE

Re my airtel 4-27-56, concerning alleged bombing of home of JOHN H. SARGENT, substitute mail carrier, at 1215 - 11th Court North, Birmingham.

According to local newspaper stories, the Birmingham PD is making an investigation, but to date have no clues concerning the blast. Acting Police Chief JAMIE MOORE said, "We are doing everything we can to get it cleared up. We have run down every lead that might give us a clue, but so far none of them have clicked." Detective E. L. RAY said no fragments of a bomb have been found. The bomb fell in the yard about 8 1/2 feet from the house and made a hole about five inches deep and eight inches in diameter in the yard, according to newspaper reports.

"The Birmingham News" for 4-28-56 carried an editorial entitled, "Another Outrageous Bombing." This editorial condemned the bombing and said that "In a time of troubled race relations it can only intensify tension."

This matter will be followed and the Bureau kept advised.

FULTS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/83 BY sp3cl/jed

RECORDED - 124

100-135-61-141

Mr. Belmont

14 MAY 2 1956

2 - Bureau
1 - Birmingham
MFL
cc: MR. BELMONT
AND SUPERVISOR
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

63 MAY 10 1956

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 4-27-56

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

Transmit the following message via AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, Birmingham (100-3080)

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

RE: MOBILE
RACON

According to local press reports, home of JOHN H. SARGENT, age 26, at 1215 - 11th Court No., was bombed about 10:30 PM, 4-26-56. SARGENT is a Negro mail carrier who lives between two white families. His home is in the Smithfield-Fountain Heights area of Birmingham where nearly a dozen bombings and several cases of arson or attempted arson have occurred against Negro residences during the past ten years. According to Newspaper reports, Birmingham police officers said the blast apparently was caused by a single stick of dynamite which knocked out all window and door glasses in the front of the house. Bomb was thrown from a black Chevrolet automobile. SARGENT made statement that a small cross was burned in his front yard several months ago, but he had had no trouble with his neighbors. Sargent said there were six people in the front room of his house at time of bombing. No one was hurt, although the room was littered with shattered glass. Newspaper stories quoted SARGENT as saying "Everybody was scared but me, and I'M mad."

This matter will be followed and Bureau advised of pertinent developments.

FILES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/83 BY [signature]

3 Bureau (100-135-61)
1 Birmingham (100-3080)

Mr. Belmont

MR. BELMONT
AND SUPERVISOR
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

RECORDED-11

25 APR 30 1956

EX - 120

Approved: [signature] Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

cc - Liaison Section
Mr. [redacted]

7C

100-295-62

RECORDED-11

100-135-61-142

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Date: May 3, 1956

100-120

Department of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

DATE 3/29/83 BY [signature]

Attention: Chief, Security Division

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: RACIAL SITUATION
Birmingham, Alabama

The Birmingham, Alabama, Office of this Bureau has advised that according to local press reports the home of John F. Sargent, 1215 21st Court North, was bombed about 10:30 p.m., April 26, 1956. Sargent is a Negro mail carrier who lives between two white families. Birmingham police officers said the blast apparently was caused by a single stick of dynamite which bucked out panes of glass in all windows and doors in the front of the house. The bomb was thrown from a black Chevrolet automobile.

Sargent made a statement that a small fire was burned in his front yard several months ago but that he has had no trouble with his neighbors. Sargent said there were six people in the front room of his house at the time of the bombing. No one was hurt although the room was littered with glass. Sargent was quoted as having said "Everybody was scared but us, and I'm mad."

Any additional pertinent information received relative to this matter will be furnished you promptly.

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

WFA - Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins
WVA 3 IS OF BW .28

(By Form 0-6, same date)

COMM - FBI
MAY 5 1956
MAILED 31

BY COURIER SVC
29 MAY 3
COMM - FBI

58 MAY 14 1956

John
N.C.T.

[Handwritten initials]

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

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

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