

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

By JOE AZBELL  
Advertiser City Editor

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

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

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

## ENFORCE LAW

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

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

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

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

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

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

## FROM PARKS CASE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

wrong and our whole foundation of government is wrong."

## HELP FINANCE

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

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

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

## APPEAL DECISION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It was understood that Gray in issue to defend my client."

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

## 90 PER CENT BOYCOTT

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

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

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

Acting upon the orders of Police Commissioner Clyde Sellers th

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

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

## NEGRO TAXI CABS BUSY

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

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

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