

April 8, 1960

ALABAMIANS ASSAIL AD BACKING DR. KING

MONTGOMERY, Ala., April 7 (UPI)—A full-page advertisement in The New York Times that solicited funds for the legal defense of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was denounced here today.

The Montgomery Advertiser said in an editorial that the advertisement was replete with "lies" and "crude slanders." Alabama's Secretary of State, Bettye Frink, said the signers of the ad "should have warrants served on them."

Sixty persons, including Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, signed the ad, which appealed for contributions to "The Committee to Defend Martin Luther King and the Struggle for Freedom in the South."

Dr. King, now a resident of Atlanta, led the successful Negro bus boycott here four years ago. He is scheduled to go on trial in May on two indictments charging him with perjury in filing state income-tax returns.

The advertisement, commenting on the expulsion of students at Alabama State College, a Negro institution, said in part:

"When the entire student body protested [the expulsion] to state authorities by refusing to re-register, their dining hall was padlocked in an attempt to starve them into submission."

Authorities at the college said "there was not a modicum of truth in the statement."

In its lead editorial this morning, The Montgomery Advertiser said:

"There are voluntary liars, there are involuntary liars.

"Both kinds of liars contributed to the crude slanders against Montgomery broadcast in a full-page advertisement in The New York Times March 29.

"And it's up to The New York Times and the involuntary liars to purge themselves of their false witness.

"The Times boasts that it screens advertisements to eliminate what is indelicate or in bad taste. Perhaps demonstrable lies will at some future time be screened and found unfit for print."

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 7 (AP)—Macdonald Gallion, Alabama's Attorney General, said today that he advertisement contained "vicious, unfounded and malicious lies." He said he was considering legal action against the advertisement's sponsors.