

Dec. 8, 1955

The contact committee of the Montgomery Improvement Association met with the City and Bus Officials in an effort to discuss problems connected with the Bus situation. The Mayor stated that a request had been received from the Council on Human Relations. Members of the Council were Rev. Thrasher, Dr. Trenholm and Rev. Hughes. Rev. Thrasher spoke stating that he was not on either side and the purpose of the meeting was to bring both sides together for discussion.

Rev. M. L. King, stated that we are not out to change the segregation laws. But, that we have a plan that can work within the laws of the state. These are the things that we request. (1) Better treatment and more courtesy from the bus drivers. (2) The seating arrangement be changed to a first come-first serve policy with no seats reserved. (3) That Negro bus drivers be employed.

Attorney Crenshaw, a representative of the bus company took the floor. He mentioned the various incidents that had happened during recent days, such as shooting in busses and the like. He said the boycott was called because of Mrs. Rosa Parks had been arrested. He said we have courtesy, and the record shows that. He said what are you going to do about white passenger who get on the bus if it is filled up with Negro. The only alternative is to reserve seats for whites. He further said that as point number three, the bus company has no intention in the foreseeable future of hiring Negro bus drivers.

After much discussion the Mayor appointed a special committee for further discussion of the problem. The general meeting adjourned.