

**Witness A**

Called as a witness first being duly

sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

Mr. Gray:

Q. State your name,

A. **Witness A**

Q.

A.

Q. Prior to December 5, 1955, did you live here in Montgomery?

A. Yes.

Q. Prior to December 5, 1955, did you ride the City buses?

A. Yes. Two to four times a day.

Q. Have you been riding those buses since December 5, 1955?

A. No.

Q. Why did you stop riding them?

A. I had stopped riding because I wanted better treatment. I knew if I would cooperate with my color I would finally get it.

Q. Have you personally experienced any difficulty on the bus in connection with the seating arrangement?

A. Yes, several times.

Q. Will you please tell the Court what happened?

A. April 29 of last year I was on the Day Street Bus,

After I rode up by the

Alabama Gas Company bus driver had three of us to get up and stand to

let a white man and a white lady to sit down.

Q. When you say three of you, do you mean yourself along with two other Negroes?

A. Myself and two other Negroes.

And he made all three of us get up because he said we was in the white section of the bus.

Q. If you were permitted to sit any place you wanted on the bus, would you be willing to ride again?

A. Yes, I would.

JUDGE RIVES: You may arrange to cross examine.

MR. KNABE: You say you stopped riding the buses about December 5, 1955, is that correct?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And I believe you said you stopped riding at that time ~~was~~ because you wanted better treatment, is that correct?

A. That is right.

Q. It is a fact, is it not, that at that time the Rev. King and several others, so called Improvement Association I believe, made such a demand, is that right?

A. No.

Q. They did make some requests, did they not?

A. I would not call it that.

Q. What would you call it then?

A. We, the Negroes, request the Rev. King, and not he over us.

Q. You didn't understand my question. Did Negro King ask three certain things at that time, did he not. One was, you said, for more courteous treatment on the part of the bus drivers, that is correct, isn't it?

A. The Reverend Kind did not ask that, the Negroes asked that.

Q. Very well, but he was the mouth piece for the negroes, was he not?

A. We employed him to be our mouth piece.

Q. I see. And that is one of the things that you asked for, that is correct is it not?

A. That is correct.

Q. And then you asked for seating, first come, first served, didn't you?

A. Yes.

Q. And then you asked for the employment of negro drivers, that is correct, isn't it?

A. Yes.

Q. And you said unless you were granted all three of them, you would not return to riding on the bus, is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. In other words, you did not stop on account of segregation but you stopped riding before segregation issue was ever raised, that is correct isn't it?

A. It is the segregation laws of Alabama that caused all of it.

Q. Just answer the question, isn't it a fact that your mouth piece took

into

✓

A. No! He did not put it into us!

Q.

Q.

A.

Q.

A.

Q.

A.

We have no other questions.

**Witness B**

next witness, being duly sworn, testified as

follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION.

BY MR. LANGFORD:

Q. State your name ?

A. **Witness B**

Q.

A.

Q.

A.

Q.

A.

Q.

A.

Q.

A.

Q.

A.

Q. You are one of the plaintiffs in this case ?

A. Yes, I am.

Q. You are one of the persons who had some incident that occurred before this suit started?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you at the present time ride the city buses?

A. No. I don't.

Q. How long has it been since you rode the city buses?

A. I rode it twice a day before this happened.

Q. Which happened?

A. Before December.

Q. Before December 5th, 1955 you rode it two days before then?

A. I rode it daily before then.

Q. You haven't ridden since?

A. No I have not.

Q. You stopped riding the buses as of that day?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, prior to that time, have you had anything to happen to you in any way, or any incidence?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. Will you tell the Court just what happened?

A. This particular incident took place on Highland Avenue Bus, on October 21, 1955. I was riding this bus and I was sitting on the bus side reserved for white and colored. I was sitting behind the side that said for colored. At this particular moment a white lady got on the bus and she asked the bus driver to tell me to move out of my seat for her to sit there. And he

asked me to move three times, and I refused. So he got up and said he would call the Cops. And he asked me to move. I told him : "I am not going to move out of my seat. I am not going to move anywhere, I got the privilege to sit here like any body else. And so he say I was under arrest, and he took me to the station.

Q. You were arrested at that time ?

A. Yes, sir. I was.

Q. What happened after that ?

A. They arrested me and they kept me in jail for about two hours or longer, and then they charged me \$5.00 and cost of Court.

Q. You were subsequently tried in the City Court ?

A. Yes.

Q. And they fined you, how much ?

A. Nine dollars.

Q. As I understand it, the bus on which you were riding had a sign, white on one side and colored on the other.

A. Yes. The card said this side for white and an arrow pointed to the back for colored.

Q. As I understand it, that in effect was a segregated bus ?

A. Yes.

Q. That incident happened perhaps because you did have segregation ?

A. Yes.

Q. You are a negro, and you were required to move from that seat, to allow a white woman to sit down.

A. That is right.

Q. Had it not been for the rule - No, I am sorry. I will ask you this, do you know what you were convicted of at the time they took you from the bus?

MR. KNABE: We think the record will speak for that. We object to that. We would like for the records to be introduced unless she knows definitely what she was convicted of. We will furnish them any records they want.

MR. LANGFORD: I asked her if she knew. Do you know what you were convicted of.

JUDGE RIVES: Just answer yes, or no.

A. No I don't.

Q. Would you ride the bus again if the laws were changed

A. I would ride the city buses provided <sup>We had no</sup> ~~we had no~~ segregation on the buses. On the city buses.

CROSS EXAMINATION

MR. KNABE:

Q. You said you were convicted back in October, 1955?

A. October 21, 1955.

Q. Did you have a lawyer at that time?

A. No.

Q. You didn't have any lawyer at all. You did not have Lawyer Gray here or no other lawyer?

A. No, sir.

Q. You didn't take your case on up, you didn't appeal your case, did you?

A. No, sir., I did not.