

Q. You were not interested at that time in the question of segregation, were you?

A. I have been interested all my life, because I have grown up in a period-

Q. When did you first employ Attorney Gray in this case?

Attorney Gray: I object your Honor, When she employed me has nothing to do with it. That is irrelevant.

MR. KNABE: One of our contentions is that all this is one scheme and plan. These people have the opportunity when this woman was in there to have tested everything that they asked for today. And we are trying to find out if at that time she was in contact with him and why it couldn't have gone on up in the usual course of procedure.

ATTY. GRAY; Your Honor, whether or not she decides to exhaust the State Judicial remedy under the Federal Code is a question of law and not a question of fact.

JUDGE RIVES: Sustain the objection.

MR. KNABE: Now, you said on this incident you mentioned here, you said "He said you are under arrest." Now who is he?

A. Policeman.

Q. The policeman, of the city of Montgomery?

A. Yes.

Q. It was not anybody on the City Lines, is that right?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. It was not the driver of the bus, was it?

A. Yes, he first tells me to get up and move.

Q. I asked you one question. You said: someone said you were under

arrest. Are you riding free at this time?

A. No, I am not riding at all.

Q. You are not riding any of the free buses that the Churches are all furnishing you?

A. We don't have no free buses.

Q. Do you mean you pay for the buses when you ride on them?

A. What bus?

Q. These station wagons?

A. No, we ride those free.

Q. Now you are riding those free, then, aren't you?

A. Yes, I am.

Q. All right. Now, you said you stopped riding on December 5, why did you happen to decide on that particular day?

A. Well, I think one person has been treated wrong and somebody else has been treated wrong, I just feel like I want to cooperate and do what I can to help them.

Q. You say you feel you should cooperate, who are you cooperating with?

A. With the colored people of Montgomery.

Q. Did you get together and agree to stop riding on December 5th?

A. No. We didn't get together. We just stopped ourselves.

Q. You must have had ^a meeting. Who gave you instructions to stop on December 5th? Did you one say to the other, "I am going to stop riding," and every body at one time stopped?

A. They must have said because nobody went back on the bus.

Q. Now, somebody said "Lets stop on a certain day." Now who was that?

A. I really don't know.

Q. But that was at the time when you had your first negotiations with the Bus Company and with the City wasn't it? That you stopped, is that correct? That was on December 5th, that is the time you stopped riding the buses, wasn't it?

A. Yes.

Q. And at that time nothing was said about segregation whatsoever, was there?

A. Something has been said about segregation, as long as I have been living I have known myself.

Q. Well, you didn't represent ^{to} anybody anything about segregation, did you, to any of the officials at all?

A. Well I still

Q. Just answer the question, you, yourself, did not at any time, say anything about segregation to any of the officials, the City officials, did you?

A. I did not say anything to them.

Q. As a matter of fact, Rev. King represented you, didn't he?

A. No. He doesn't represent no one. We represent ourselves. We appointed him as our leader.

Q. You appointed him as your leader -

A. Our leader,

Q. But he did represent the colored people. He was the spokesman for the colored people, that is correct, is it not?

A. Yes, he and his assistants.

That is all.

ATTY. GRAY: You do object to segregation now?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. Do the rest of the Negroes in the Montgomery section object to segregation?

A. Yes, they do.

MR. KNABE: We object.

JUDGE RIVES: Overruled.

Mr. GRAY: That is all.

Witness C

called as a witness, being duly sworn,

testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION:

Mr. GRAY:

Q. State your name?

Witness C

Q.

A.

Q.

A.

Q.

A.

Q. You are one of the plaintiff's in this lawsuit?

A. Yes.

Q. Prior to December 5, 1955, last year, did you ride the City Buses?

A. Yes.

Q. How often did you ride?

- A. Twice a day.
- Q. Twice a day?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Have you rode the busses since then?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you have an incident at any time while you were riding the buses?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When did this incident occur?
- A. March 2, 1955.
- Q. What bus did you ride?
- A. Highland Gardens.
- Q. About what time was it?
- A. About 2:30 PM.
- Q.
- A.
- Q. Will you please tell the Court exactly what happened on March 2, 1955?
- A. I rode the bus and it was turning in on Perry and Dexter Avenue,
I sit on the seat on the left hand
side, on the seat just above the emergency door, me and another girl beside
me.
- Q. You say another girl was sitting by you and another girl was sitting across from you, do you mean those two girls were Negroes?
- A. Yes, sir. And he drove on down to the next block, and by the time

all the people got in there, he seen there were no more vacant seats. He asked us to get up, and the big girl got up but I didn't. So he drove on down into the Square, and some more people boarded the bus. So, Mrs. Hamilton, she got on the bus, and she sat down beside me, and that leaves the other seat vacant.

Q. You mean that from across the aisle the other two girls had gotten up when the bus driver requested them to?

A. Yes, sir. So, he looked back through the window and he saw us, and he was surprised to see she was sitting down, too. He asked her to get up then and he asked both of us to get up. She said she was not going to get up, she didn't feel like it. He drove on down to the next corner or block, rather. And he got up and asked us to get up. And she told him she was not going to get up that she paid her fare and that she didn't feel like standing. And so, he asked me to get up. So, he directly asked me to get up first. So I told him I was not going to get up. He said, "If you are not going to get up I will get a policeman." So, he went somewhere and got a policeman. The first policeman came in the back way and asked who it was? So he told the policeman who I was. Anyway he said, "Why are you not going to get up?" He said, "It is against the law here." So I tol him that I didn't know that it was a law that a colored person had to get up and give a white person a seat when there were not any more vacant seats and colored people were standing up. So he got off. And then two more policemen came in. He said "Who is it? And he was very angry about it. He said: That is not new I had trouble out of that thing before. So, he said "Aren't you going to get up?" He didn't say anything to Mrs. Hamilton then. He just said it to me. He said: "Aren't you going to

get up?" I said 'No.' He saw Mrs. Hamilton but he was afraid to ask her to get up. He said, " If any of you are not gentlemen enough to give a lady a seat you should be put in jail, yourself. And so, Mr. Harris, he got up and gave her a seat, and immediately got off the bus. He said , "You can have that seat I am getting off. " And so she taken his seat and I didn't have a seat. So, he asked me, if I was not going to get up, I said, No, sir. I was crying then , I was very hurtbecause I didn't know that white people would act like that and I was crying. And he said" I will have to take you off. " So, I didn't move. I didn't move at all. so, I just acted like a big baby. So he kicked me and one got on one side of me and one got the other arm and they just drug me out. And so I was very pitiful, it really hurt me to see that I have to give a person a seat, when all those colored people were standing and there were not any more vacant seats. I had never seen nothing like that. Well, they take me on down, they put me in a car and one of the motorcycle men, he says, "I am sorry to have to take you down like this. " So, they put handcuffs on me through the window.

Q. After that where did they take you?

A. They taken me to the City Hall.

Q.

A.

Q. Where did you go from the City Hall?

A. I went to the City Jail.

Q.

A.

Q. So they took you to the City Jail?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long were you there?

A. It was over an hour.

Q. What happened when you got to the City Jail?

A. Well, all the people were staring at me, and asked me what was wrong. One of the policemen, said, "She didn't want to sit back there with the Negroes. And so he said: "If any more of them act like that, she was the only one that didn't want to move back. " So they put me in the cell and locked the door.

Q.

A.

Q.

A.

Q. Were you tried for violating the segregation laws?

MR. KNABE: We object, unless she knows.

MR. GRAY: Do you know whether you were tried and convicted of violating the segregation laws?

A. I was.

MR. KNABE: We object to the question. We would like for him to ask her what she was convicted of. There are several segregation laws.

JUDGE RIVES: You can ask her if she knows what she was convicted of.

MR. GRAY: Do you know what you were charged with?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. What were you charged with?

A. I was charged with violating the City Code or certain sections of the

city code.

Q.

A.

Q.

A.

Q.

Q. Would you be willing to ride the bus if you could sit any place you wanted to on them?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. From your observation of your friends and your neighbors in your community, would they be willing to ride busses if they could sit any place they wanted to?

A. Yes, sir.

CROSS EXAMINATION

MR. KNABE:

Q. You have changed, that is, you and the other Negroes have changed your ideas since December 5, have you not?

A. No, sir. We haven't changed our ideas. It has been in me ever since I was born.

Q. But, the group stopped riding the busses for certain named things, that is correct, isn't it?

A. For what?

Q. For certain things that Rev. King said were the things you objected to?

✓ A. No, sir. It was in the beginning when they arrested me, when they seen dirty how/they treated the Negro girls here, that they had began to feel like that all the time, though some of us just didn't have the guts to stand up.

Q. Did you have a leader when you started this bus boycott?

A. Did we have a leader? Our leaders is just we ourself. We are just a group of people.-

Q. Did you select anyone to represent you like Rev. King?

A. We did select - quite naturally we are not going to have any ingorant person to lead us and so we have to have someone who is strong enough to speak up, someone with intelligence enough, we have got to have someone who can stand up and who knows the law and who knows , it is quite natural that we are not going to get up there ourselves, and some of them can't even read or write, but they knew they were being treated wrong.

Q. Is Rev. King the one you selected?

A. We didn't select him.

Q. You said you selected somebody who was better informed to represent you, now who did you select?

A. Well, I don't know anything about selecting , but we all just got together.

Q. But somebody spoke for your group , now who was it?

A. I don't know, we all spoke for ourselves .

Q. Now, just a minute ago I understood you to say that you selected somebody that knew the law better now who was that person?

A. Who knew the laws better, now a lot of people know the laws better.

Now, you are trying to say that Rev King is the leader of the whole thing?

Q. I am merely asking if Rev. King was the one of the leaders who represented you at that time, or one of the leaders who represented your group at that time, and expressed to the City Commission what the Negroes wanted?

A. Probably he was one of them who went to the City Commissioners, but I don't know.

Q. You don't know at all then?

A. I don't know nothing.