

Ala. Bus Boycott Leaders' Homes Bombed: Four Drive Fails Boycott Leader Arrested

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Boycott Leader Arrested

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—The Rev. M. L. King, one of the leaders of the local bus boycott, termed his recent arrest by Montgomery motorcycle policemen an attempt to break up the nine-week-old protest movement staged by Negro citizens.

The Rev. Mr. King said police trailed him as he left a "pick-up" stop, and when he discharged one of the occupants of his car, officers pulled up and ordered him to pull over for "speeding."

At the jail, the minister said, he was held and refused bond, but when excited citizens learned of his arrest, and swarmed to the scene, he was released on a recognition bond.

The Rev. Mr. King said police had begun widespread arrests to break up the citizens' free transportation system. "More than 100 traffic violation tickets have been issued and some of the car pool workers have been frightened off," he added.

MEANWHILE, THE Rev. Mr. King denied reports that his group had agreed to a "compromise plan," while Montgomery Mayor W. A. Gayle joined the Citizens Council and said the City Commission will make no further attempts to reach agreement.

The Rev. Mr. King charged that three ministers were hoodwinked into attending a City Commission meeting, but denied that agreement was near.

"The bus protest is still on and it will last until our proposals are given sympathetic treatment," the minister said.

The boycotters have requested more courteous treatment from the city's bus drivers; seating arrangements on a first-come first-served basis, and the employment of Negro bus drivers on lines operating in areas heavily populated with Negroes.

The protest grew out of the arrest on Dec. 1 and subsequent fining of Mrs. Rosa Parks, who refused a driver's request that she move to the rear of a bus.

Mayor Gayle charged that Negro leaders "are after the destruction of our social fabric," and added that "we have pussy-footed long enough."

"The vast majority of whites in Montgomery don't care whether a Negro ever rides a bus again," the Mayor declared.

POLICE COMMISSIONER Clyde Sellers and Commissioner Frank Parks, members of the City Commission, also announced they have joined the Citizens Council, which is devoted to preserving segregation by legal means.

Sellers said the city's police have been ordered to "break up" Negro groups which he claims have been "loitering" at certain times of day in white residential areas.

—SINGBAT AND THE BEST—