

Objective: To examine the causes and effects of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.



Howard Sochurek/LI

Top: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;
Right: E.D. Nixon



Left: Rosa Parks;
Below: Rev. Ralph Abernathy



The Voices of Montgomery

Rosa Parks is arrested:

- As in many southern states, Alabama's Jim Crow laws required that blacks give up their seats on buses to whites.
- In December of 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama.



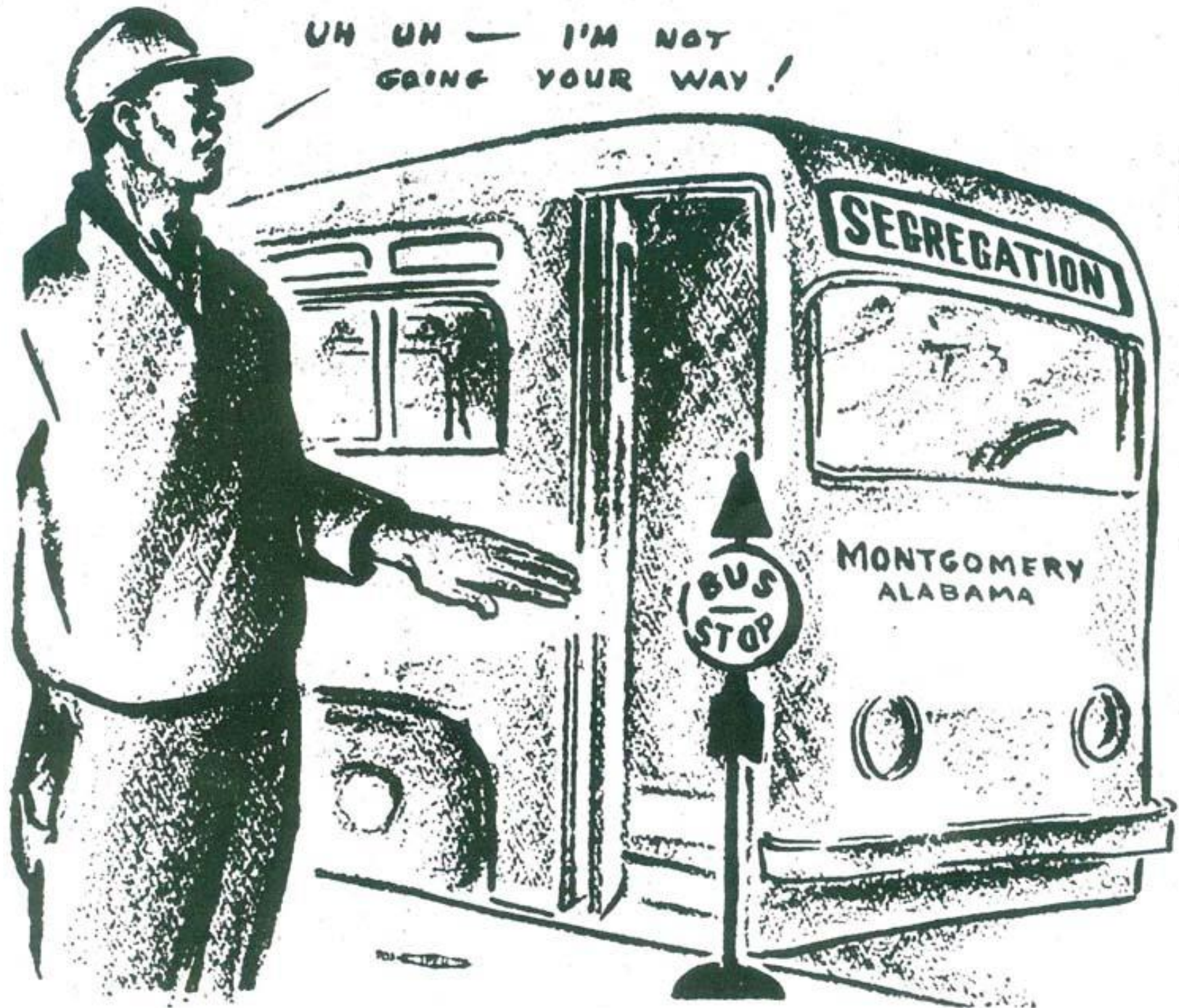
Dr. King:

- The NAACP, with the help of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., organized a bus boycott in Montgomery.
- Without black riders, white owned bus companies stood to lose a lot of money.



The Rev. Ralph Abernathy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., from left, at a press conference. (May 26, 1963)

UH UH — I'M NOT
GOING YOUR WAY!



Montgomery Protest - "Fill 'er up!"





An empty bus passes by during the Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1956.

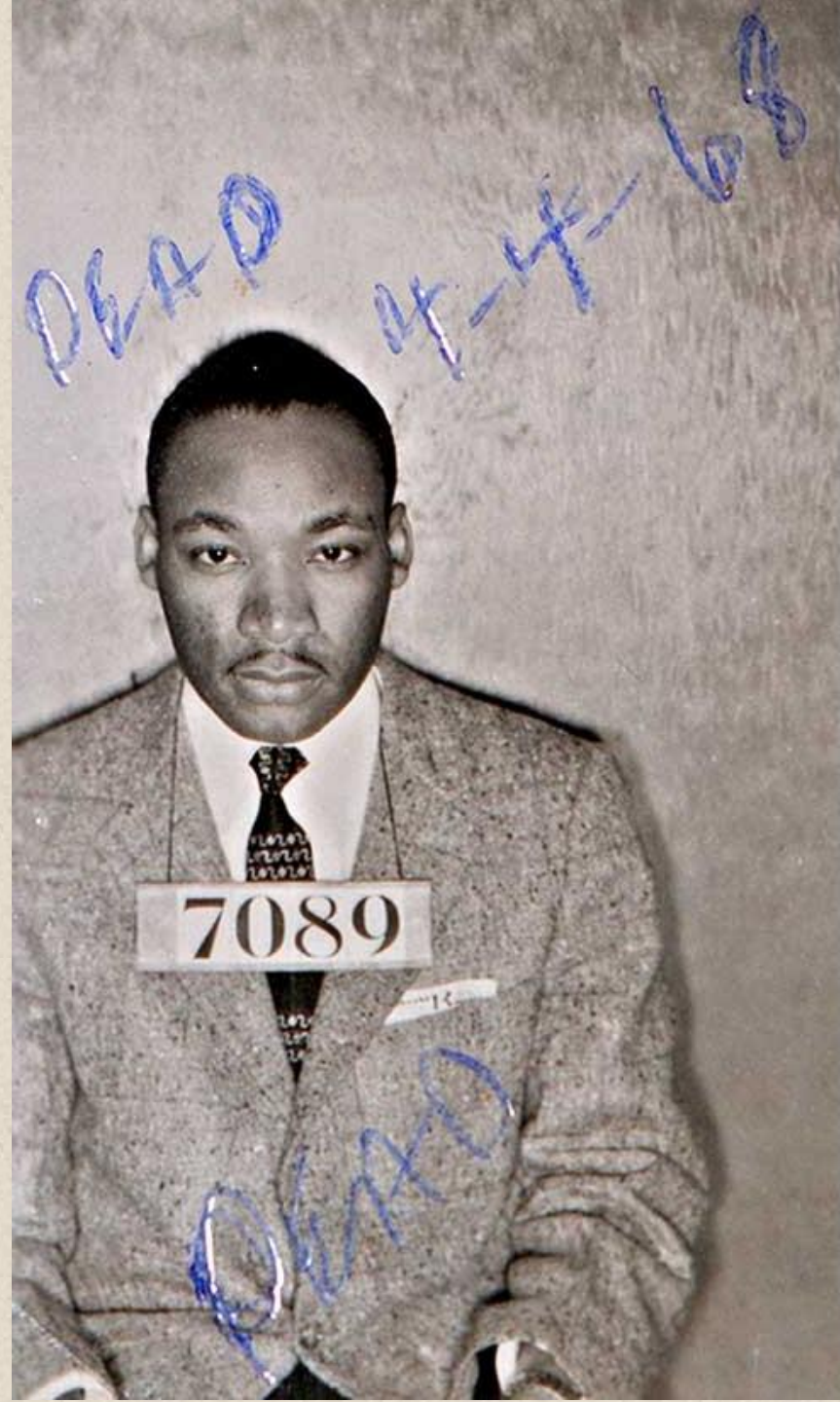
• King was arrested, his house was bombed, yet the boycott continued.

• King insisted that his followers follow civil disobedience, or nonviolent protests against unjust laws.



*Martin Luther King, Jr., arrested,
Montgomery, Alabama, 1958.
(Photograph by Charles Moore)*

"Martin Luther King Jr. was photographed by Alabama cops following his February 1956 arrest during the Montgomery bus boycott. The historic mug shot, taken when King was 27, was discovered in July 2004 by a deputy cleaning out a Montgomery County Sheriff's Department storage room. It is unclear when the notations 'DEAD' and '4-4-68' were written on the picture."



Police started harassing the car pool, threatening to arrest drivers, revoke their licenses, and cancel their insurance policies. On January 26, King was arrested for speeding and taken to jail (for driving 30 in a 25 mph zone). A few days later his house was bombed. Soon King was receiving dozens of hate letters and threatening phone calls every day. In February an all-white grand jury indicted 89 people, including twenty-four ministers and all drivers in the car pool, for violating an obscure state anti-labor law that prohibited boycotts. King was the first to be tried. The judge found him guilty and sentenced him a year of hard labor or a fine of \$500 plus court costs.

A hard-won battle:

- In 1956, the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on buses was unconstitutional.
- Therefore, the Montgomery bus company agreed to integrate their buses and hire black bus drivers.



Dr. King and his wife, Coretta, at the conclusion of the boycott.

*Dr. King and
Reverend
Ralph
Abernathy
riding a bus
on the first
day for
desegregated
buses in
Montgomery,
AL.
(December
21, 1956)*

