

Four Handed 30-Day Terms For Bus Seating Violation

HILLSBORO—Four alleged members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Congress of Racial Equality, were sentenced by Judge Chester A. Morris in Orange County Superior Court here yesterday to 30 days in the workhouse for violation of the North Carolina bus seating statute.

The jury was out only 15 minutes before returning a verdict of guilty in the case.

The four defendants served notice of appeal to the State Supreme Court. Motions for dismissal and nonsuit were denied.

The defendants were Igal Roodenko of New York and Joseph A. Felmont of Asheville, both white; and Bayard Rustin of New York and Andrew S. Johnson, Negroes.

They were arrested in Chapel Hill last April 13 at the bus station there after Ned Leonard, driver for the Carolina Coach Company, was unable to persuade them to sit in the vehicle according to rules of the company and the State statute.

The prosecution, under the direction of Solicitor W. H. Murdock of Durham, threw a bombshell into the defense ranks with the introduction of photostatic copies of alleged planned tests of the so-called Jim Crow regulations.

Excerpts from papers relating to a "Journey of Reconciliation" contained detailed plans and instructions to small groups making "test trips" through several states in the "upper South."

Despite this evidence, Roodenko—the only defendant to testify—denied under questioning by private prosecutor L. J. Phipps of Chapel Hill that the group's motive was to test the State's segregation statute. Phipps assisted Solicitor Murdock in the prosecution.

Roodenko declared that his purpose on the trip was "to see what I can do in my own small personal way to promote better understanding among various groups of people."

All of the defendants except Johnson were committed by the government as conscientious objectors during the recent war.

Felmont was a student at the University of North Carolina in the class of 1942.

Roodenko, whose age was given as 31, said that while he was detained as a conscientious objector he went on a hunger strike in protest against certain regulations of which he disapproved.

Leonard, driver of the bus on which the four were riding at the time of their arrest, told the court that Johnson, one of the Negroes, was sitting next to Felmont in the third seat from the front of the bus, despite the fact there were vacant seats toward the back. Roodenko was sitting with Rustin, the other Negro, in a seat toward the rear, Leonard said.

Journey will be to challenge Jim Crow in interstate travel. Whenever necessary the members of the group, (both white and Negro) will divide up to fill a number of engagements simultaneously in the cities where they are stopping. Some of the topics on which members will be prepared to speak are: 1. Nonviolence versus Jim Crow; 2. The meaning of the Irene Morgan decision; 3. Brotherhood knows no color line; and 4. We challenged Jim Crow on busses.

"The basic idea of the project is to have a carefully planned trip through several states in the upper South by a small, interracial, disciplined group in order to test Jim Crow practices on busses and trains involved in interstate travel.

"The trip has a three-fold purpose: 1. to gather data in a planned and scientific fashion on what is happening when Negroes and whites travel together without heed to patterns of segregation in states where Jim Crow laws prevail; 2. to

develop techniques for dealing creatively with the possible conflict situations that will arise when segregation patterns are ignored on busses and trains; and 3. to do an educational job by passing on the experiences and data obtained on the trip.

"Both men and women can be used in test groups, but there should be no mixing in the sexes in any one group. The test groups should be made up, primarily of Southerners, though some persons

have indicated that this is not of primary importance.

"In this first test trip, points in the states of Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky will be touched. The deep South may be touched later, depending what comes out of this first experiment.

"Witnesses, who will not be a part of the project, will be on hand at all times to observe carefully what transpires.

"Project participants must have enough money on their persons to

cover bail in case of arrest. It has been suggested that each person ought to have at least \$250 in travelers' checks.

"There is no plan for issuing any kind of letterhead with the names of prominent individuals attached as a special committee. However it will be important for the group participating in the project to have the support of various groups and individuals in order that they might not be isolated in case of arrest or of some other unfortunate incident."

DMH 3.18.1948 Four Handed 30-Day Terms For Bus Seating Violation



CARDS

Serious or Humorous, a Hallmark Easter Card will say what you want to say the way you want to say it.

CARDS FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Eckerd's

DRUG STORE

122 W. MAIN ST.

CHOCOLATE COVERED CHERRIES

Lb. Box
Fresh

79c

Delicious JELLY EGGS

Lb. Bag

39c

Page 36

FRESH STOCK CANDIES

FOR EASTER

Nice Selection of Whitman's, Norris, Nunnallys, Pangburn, McPhail, and Old Dominion Box Candy.



ALSO EASTER EGGS AND EASTER NOVELTIES

\$1.000

ROACH POWDER

35c Size
24c

46-Ounce

ORANGE JUICE

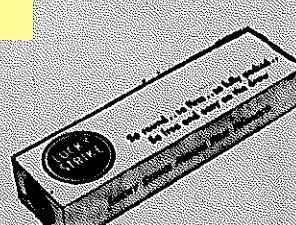
Pint Size

55c

JOHNSON'S

WAX

1 Lb. Can **48c**



By the carton