

DMH

3.18.1948 (2
of 2) Four
Handed 30-
Day Terms for
Bus Seating
Violation

rear, Leonard said. The bus driver told the court that "I asked Johnson to take a seat in the rear, and quoted him the rules, but he refused to move. He said that he was under the impression that by virtue of some interstate law he could sit where he wanted to."

Leonard said that he then called a police officer and told Felmont to move so that Johnson could get out. He said that Felmont replied that he would not move unless he was placed under arrest.

Leonard testified that the officer, D. B. Roberts, asked him if he would sign warrants against the men. Leonard said that he did so.

"When I returned to the bus I noticed Rustin and Roodenko had moved to the seats which had been vacated by Felton and Johnson. I asked them to move but they refused. I asked Roodenko where he was going and he said 'Danville.' I told him that he was on the wrong bus. Then he said 'Greensboro.' Rustin would not tell where he was going," Leonard testified.

Under cross-examination by defense counsel, including C. J. Gates and E. R. Avant of Durham, and a Raleigh attorney (all Negroes), Leonard was asked why he did not request other Negro passengers to move to the extreme rear of the bus.

Leonard replied that he did not get to the rear section of the bus because of the incident in the front. He also admitted that it is possible to go to Danville by way of Greensboro.

Leonard said under cross-examination that he did not know that the defendants held tickets to Knoxville, Tenn., and Danville.

Under questioning, Roodenko admitted that he had attended a dinner at Chapel Hill the night of April 12 and a meeting at Greensboro the following night. He also admitted attending a meeting in Asheville on April 17.

In reply to a question by Judge Morris as to why he had changed his seat after Johnson and Felmont were arrested, Roodenko said that "I thought they had been unjustly treated."

The photostatic copies concerning "Journey of Reconciliation" and notices marked "confidential, not to be used for publicity purposes," were identified by Roodenko.

The latter said that he owned an interest in a printing shop in New Jersey, and admitted that he had been in the employ of the "Fellowship" organization, with headquarters in New York City.

Despite protests of defense counsel, Judge Morris permitted introduction of the papers.

Excerpts from the copies, signed by a "George M. Houser" and Bayard Rustin, follow:

"The Journey of Reconciliation is being sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Congress of Racial Equality. Its purpose is generally to present to various groups in the upper South the importance of the methods and techniques of nonviolence in challenging race discrimination. More specifically, the purpose of the