

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES



**Twentieth Anniversary
of the
Non-violent Movement:
The Montgomery Bus Boycott**

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The Montgomery Bus Boycott
December 5, 6, & 7, 1975**

S.C.L.C. Press

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The day was Thursday, December 1, 1955. The place was Montgomery, Alabama. Mrs. Rosa Parks, a weary black seamstress riding home on the segregated city bus line, refused to give up her seat to a white man and was arrested and taken to the city jail.

E.D. Nixon, a militant black Montgomerian, immediately proposed united action by black citizens in support of Mrs. Parks. In a quick succession of meetings and rallies, the black community of Montgomery decided to stop paying for humiliation on the buses, and on December 5, the historic Montgomery bus boycott was launched. It lasted 381 days, until December 21, 1956, when the buses were desegregated.

The boycott was organized and carried out by the newly established Montgomery Improvement Association, under the leadership of two young ministers and close friends—Martin Luther King, Jr., serving as President, and Ralph David Abernathy, the Program Director.

For more than a year, the black community of Montgomery boycotted the Montgomery bus system—by walking, using car pools, sharing personal means of transportation.

The boycott was one of history's most dramatic and massive nonviolent protests, stunning the nation and the world. It was also a signal to begin a new phase of the long struggle, a phase that came to be known as the modern civil rights movement.

Twenty years later we commemorate the anniversary of the bus boycott (and the beginning of the modern-day non-violent movement) in a series of meetings and activities in Montgomery, with active participation of a cross section of human rights organizations and other supportive groups and their leadership. As we meet, we remember the challenge of the future, for there is still so much work to be done by our movement. The struggle for equality, justice, and peace among all people continues.

"IF YOU WILL PROTEST COURAGEOUSLY AND YET WITH DIGNITY AND CHRISTIAN LOVE, WHEN THE HISTORY BOOKS ARE WRITTEN IN FUTURE GENERATIONS, THE HISTORIANS WILL HAVE TO PAUSE AND SAY, 'THERE LIVED A GREAT PEOPLE—A BLACK PEOPLE—WHO INJECTED NEW MEANING AND DIGNITY INTO THE VEINS OF CIVILIZATION.'" THIS IS OUR CHALLENGE AND OUR OVERWHELMING RESPONSIBILITY."

Martin Luther King, Jr., December 5, 1955
Montgomery, Alabama

Mrs. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the segregated city bus line to a white man, and was arrested and taken to jail.



"I was tired that day December 1, 1955. I had paid my fare. I just refused to get up, so when I sat down Black People in Montgomery stood up and that is why we are here today."

Mrs. Rosa Parks



Mrs. Johnnie Carr was transportation committee secretary for the bus boycott.

"Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary. We must keep on struggling that justice will prevail.

"Thus 'The Struggle Continues' as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Movement."

Mrs. Johnnie R. Carr,
President, Montgomery
Improvement Association

E.D. Nixon proposed the bus boycott in support of Mrs. Parks.

"Before you brothers and sisters get comfortable in your seats, I want to say if anybody here is afraid, he better take his hat and go home. This is going to be a long-drawn-out affair. . .

"But we've worn aprons too long! It's time for us to take them off!"

E.D. Nixon



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Memorial -- Rev. Solomon Seay, Sr.

11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Symposium -- "QUALITY EDUCATION AND SCHOOL
DESEGREGATION"

Presiding: Mr. Joe Reed

HOLT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Symposium -- "POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT"

Presiding: Mr. John Lewis

MT. ZION AME ZION CHURCH

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Ministers Meeting -- "THE ROLE OF MINISTERS AS THE
STRUGGLE CONTINUES"

Presiding: Rev. Dr. A. W. Wilson

ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY ARENA

8:00 p.m.

Twentieth Anniversary Concert

Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Al Dixon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

LILLY BAPTIST CHURCH

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Youth Rally and Arts Festival

Attorney Delores Boyd and Mrs. Lela Shepherd
Coordinators

20th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION CO-CHAIRPERSONS

Ralph D. Abernathy
Erna Dungee Allen
Harry Belafonte
Anne Braden
Edward W. Brooke
Johnnie R. Carr
Kenneth B. Clark

George Esser
Walter Fauntroy
Murray H. Finley
Lloyd K. Garrison
Carlton B. Goodlet
Fred D. Gray
J.H. Hawthorne

Vernon Jordan
Coretta S. King
Martin L. King, Sr.
Stanley Levison
John Lewis
Joseph E. Lowery
E.D. Nixon

Rosa Parks
Claire Randall
A. Philip Randolph
Charles B. Rangel
Cleveland Robinson
Bayard Rustin
S.S. Seay, Sr.

Fred Shuttlesworth
Glenn Smiley
Nelson A. Smith
Levi Watkins, Sr.
Roy Wilkins
Idessa Williams
Leonard Woodcock

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Rufus Lewis

William Lucy
Naomi Marcus
L.D. Reddick
Joe Reed
James C. Sams
Richmond Smiley
C.K. Steele
H.M. Steele
Louis Stokes

Johnnie Tillman
Herman M. Waters
Robert White
Eddie Williams
Hosea L. Williams
A.W. Wilson
Rose Wylie
Claude Young
Coleman Young

A. Philip Randolph Institute
Alabama Democratic Conference
Alabama Education Association
Alabama Students for Civil Rights
American Friends Service Committee
Black Congressional Caucus
Catholic Peace Fellowship
Catholic Worker
Clergy and Laity Concerned
Delta Ministry
Distributive Workers of America
Elks Lodge No. 431
Federation of Southern Cooperatives
Fellowship of Reconciliation
Field Foundation
Georgia Legislative Black Caucus
Hospital and Drug Workers Union No. 1199
Joint Center for Political Study
Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change
Martin Luther King, Jr. Workers Conference
Metropolitan Applied Research Center, Inc.
Montgomery Improvement Association
New World Foundation
National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
National Baptist Convention of America

National Business League
National Council of Churches of Christ
National Democratic Party of Alabama
National Education Association
National Newspaper Publishers Association Black Press
of America

National Progressive Baptist Convention
National Tenants Organization
National Urban Coalition
National Urban League
Welfare Rights Organization
Operation Impact
South East Alabama Self Help Association
South West Alabama Farmers Cooperative
Southern Conference of Black Mayors, Inc.
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
Southern Elections Fund
Southern Organizing Committee for Social and
Economic Justice

Southern Regional Council
Southern Rural Action
United Memorial Bank
Voter Education Project
War Resisters League
Women Strike for Peace
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Donzaleigh Abernathy
Ralph D. Abernathy, Jr.
Archie Allen
Roosevelt Barnett
John Bascom
Fred C. Bennette
Roland Betts
Willie Bolden
Delores R. Boyd
Viola Bradford
Frank A. Bray
Hattie Brooks
Tyrone Brooks
Wilson Brown
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Diane Burke
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Stoney Cooks

Edward Corbet
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Elaine Tomlin
Albert Turner
Dorothy Vaughn
C.T. Vivian
Dorothy Williams
Gladys Williams
Lula J. Williams
Clara Wise
Virgil Wood
Willie Wood
Herbert Young

PARTICIPANTS

(Partial list)

Atty. Fred Gray

Dr. Moses Jones

Dr. Major Lightfoot

Dr. Ed Irons

Mrs. Rosa Parks

Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy

Mrs. Coretta S. King

Vernon Jordan

John Lewis

Senator Julian Bond

Robert Jones

Mrs. Johnnie Carr

Dr. Lucius Foster

Dr. Randolph Blackwell

Atty. George Esser

Dr. Felix James

Rev. Jessie Douglass

Rev. J. E. Lowery

Rev. Leon Sullivan

Rev. Andrew Brown

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Rev. Calvin Morris

Rep. Hosea Williams

Ed Nixon

Barbara Reynolds

Rep. Alvin Holmes

Rev. Solomon Seay, Sr.

Mrs. Laura Wynn

Senator U. W. Clemons

Councilman Arthur Langford

Mrs. Virginia Durr

Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth

Congressman Andrew Young

Congressman Walter Fauntroy

Bayard Rustin

Cleveland Robinson

Rufus Lewis

Rev. Charles Kirby

Mrs. Ann Braden

Dr. Levi Watkins, Sr.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr.

Les Dunbar

Rev. A. W. Wilson

Dr. Bernard Bridges

Moreland Smith

E. J. Shepherd

Councilman Joe Reed

Jessie Hill

Rev. Thomas E. Jordan

Congressman Ron Dellums

Dr. Charles Hamilton

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Twentieth Anniversary
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The Montgomery Bus Boycott
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, DECEMBER 5, 6, 7, 1975**

**PROGRAM
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5**

DEXTER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

10:00 a.m.	Press Conference
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Devotion -- Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr.
10:30 - 12:00 noon	Symposium -- "THE STATE OF THE NATION AND THE NON-VIOLENT MOVEMENT"
	Presiding: Congressman Walter Fauntroy

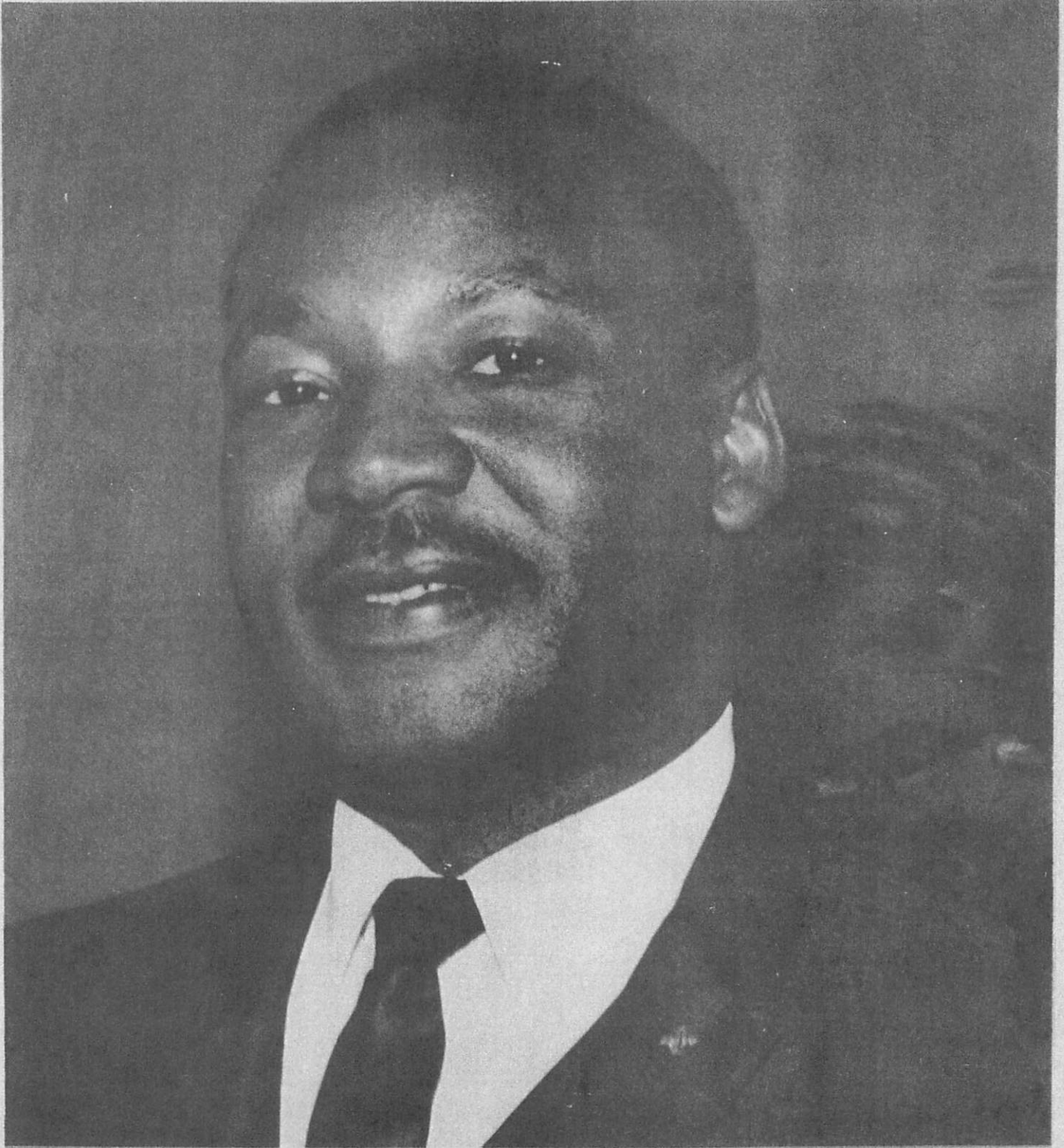
MIDTOWN HOLIDAY INN

12:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Luncheon
	Presiding: Dr. J. E. Lowery
	Symposium -- "TOWARDS A NON-VIOLENT ECONOMY"
	Presiding: Dr. Virgil Wood

ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY ARENA

7:00 p.m.	Twentieth Anniversary Mass Rally
	Presiding: Dr. Moses Jones and Atty. Fred D. Gray

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was elected President of the Montgomery Improvement Association December 5, 1955.



"Now the judgement is upon us, and we must either learn to live together as brothers and sisters or we are all going to perish together as fools. . ."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Ralph David Abernathy led planning for the bus boycott from its first day.



"This is a very historical conference. But we must be reminded that there is still so much work to be done by our movement as we seek full equality, justice, and peace among all people."

Dr. Ralph David Abernathy

"For 381 days Negroes traded tired feet for rested souls."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Atlanta, Ga.: Plans for the twentieth anniversary commemoration of the Montgomery bus boycott were announced by (left to right) the Rev. W. Q. Robinson, board member, the Montgomery Improvement Association; Bernard Lee, Executive Vice President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; (first row clockwise) Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Mrs. Coretta Scott King, President, Martin Luther King Center for Social Change; Atty. Fred Gray, Attorney for the Montgomery bus boycott, now attorney for the Montgomery Improvement Association; Mrs. Johnnie M. Carr, President of the Montgomery Improvement Association; Congressman Andrew Young, Jr.; and Leon Hall, Program Officer, Southern Regional Council.

NATIONAL COORDINATORS, 20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION:
BERNARD S. LEE AND LEON W. HALL



"This conference must look to the future, not the past. It will not be and can not be an empty celebration to reminisce."

Mrs. Coretta Scott King

NOTES

