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Bus Incident Culminating In Arrest Of Four Men May Develop Into Test Case For 'Jim Crow' Law

CHAPEL HILL, April 14.—(P)—The first court round in what appears to be a test case as to the application of the "Jim Crow" law on busses in this state may be enacted in Recorder's Court here soon.

The case was scheduled to be heard in Recorder's Court here at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, but at the request of an attorney for the defendants Judge Henry Whitfield granted a continuance until April 29.

Two white men and two Negro men are scheduled for trial on charges of disorderly conduct growing out of a disturbance at the bus station yesterday afternoon when the two Negroes refused to move from the front of the bus to vacant seats in the rear until ejected.

Chapel Hill police said a white man and a Negro man boarded a Raleigh-Charlotte bus here yesterday afternoon and took a third seat from the front, although there were vacant seats in the rear.

Attendants at the bus station said the Negroes arrested had tickets for out-of-state destinations.

When the driver, Ned O. Leonard, of the Carolina Coach Company, who swore out the warrants, asked the Negro to move to the rear and he refused, the driver called in the police and preferred charges.

As soon as the Negro was ejected, another white man and a Negro man moved from the rear and occupied seats together near the front of the bus, police said.

The two white men in each instance resisted the efforts of the

officers to eject the Negroes and were charged with interfering with an officer in the performance of his duty as well as disorderly conduct.

Then men arrested gave their names and vocations as Igal Rodenko, white, horticulturist, 1117 Manor Avenue, New York City; Joseph A. Belmont, 25, white, lecturer, Asheville; Bayard Ruston, 32, Negro, 2929 Broadway, educator, New York City; and Andrew S. Johnson, 21, Negro, lecturer, Cincinnati.

Police said that no sooner had the arrests been made than "two white men, apparently traveling with the Negroes for the purpose of making a test case, put up bond. One said he was a lawyer and gave the name of George M. Houser,

no address, and the other, who furnished bond, gave the name of James Peck, no address.

Police said that soon after the arrests Rev. Charles M. Jones, pastor of the local Presbyterian Church, who has caused a split in the membership of his church as the result of his attitude on the race question, came to the police station and took the four Negroes and five white men to his home, saying he was doing this "to protect them," from possible violence.

Shortly after that Rev. Mr. Jones telephoned police that he had received a telephone call threatening the burning of his home unless the men involved left his house soon. The police advised the minister to send the men out of town and he did.

Governor Grants Negroes Reprieve

RALEIGH, April 14.—(P)—Governor Cherry today granted a reprieve to four Robeson County Negroes who were scheduled to die in the gas chamber here Friday for the criminal assault of Mrs. Dorothy Frye.

The four men are: Granger Thompson, Cliff Inman, Calvin Covington and Stacy Powell. The reprieve, which was granted to give the Governor more time in which to study facts in the case, was until April 19, thus setting their new death date for May 9.

Motion for a new trial for the four Negroes was denied in Robeson Superior Court today by Judge Walter J. Bone.

The railways of Great Britain own 32,000 miles of railway tracks, 585,440 freight cars, 1,640 miles of navigable canals, 155,000 trucks, and 53,000 motor busses.