

should be lifted as of March 5, 1956. However, the University expelled Miss Lucy on March 1, 1956, on the basis that she had made false charges and allegations against University officials.

Benjamin J. Davis, a member of the national board of the Communist Party, USA, who had been convicted under the Smith Act of 1940, "rapped the expulsion of Autherine Lucy. . . and called for prosecution of the trustees who voted the action." He demanded:

"... enforcement of the Supreme Court decision of desegregation and the arrest and prosecution of Eastland, Talmadge and 'the gang which controls the White Citizens Councils, and all others who conspire to keep the Negro people from enjoying rights guaranteed under the Constitution.' "28



b. Bus Boycott in Montgomery, Alabama

In early December, 1955, Negro leaders in Montgomery, Alabama, demanded equal rights for their race on segregated city buses. The issue was precipitated when a Negro seamstress refused to move to the rear of the bus, was arrested, and fined \$14. Immediately thereafter, Negroes instituted a boycott of the buses, causing police cruisers to escort the buses through Negro areas to prevent violence. On February 22, 1956, approximately one hundred Negro religious and political leaders in the Montgomery area were indicted on charges of violating a state antiboycott statute.