

DOWNLOAD PDF SIT-INS, FREEDOM RIDES, AND ALBANY: GOING TO JAIL TO HELP PEOPLE

Chapter 1 : Freedom Riders | Revolvvy

The power of mass song Freedom songs energized and sustained the courage of student sit-ins and Freedom Riders, but it is in Albany that the true power of mass-participation singing manifests. Led by the students, deeply rooted in the music and lyrics of the Black church, it is through song that many adults bowed by a lifetime of oppression and.

In fact it was lawful until Brown v board of education. African Americans wanted the same rights as whites, so many people stood up to the laws that were set. One important movement was the Freedom Rides. The Freedom Rides had a lot of setup before the rides happened. There was a lot going on during the rides as well. The Freedom Rides ended up being really successful because of people previously attempting to end segregation, attacks, and how people felt about people not being equal. Before the Freedom Rides started, there were already a lot of other protests related to segregation happening. For example, CORE, a civil rights activists group, were trying to make places more equal for everyone. An article on history. They did simple things like eating at places that were only meant for white people. This organisation was run by Jim Farmer who had to leave for unknown reasons. Finally, the Rock Hill sit-ins was an event that happened in , a year before the freedom rides. Once they opened back up after a few weeks, they would go back and do the same thing. This was one of the first things that made people realize that actions were going to be made about segregation. There were a lot of things happening before the rides, but contradict that, the same amount of activity was going on during the rides. Attacks also play a role on how the freedom riders were treated. During a ride to Montgomery, some riders had gotten attacked by a group of whites. They most likely want to keep the power and inequality they have against African Americans. Next this certain event happened before the previous attack but was a lot more violent. This attack included the KKK and they had tried to burn the bus. An excerpt by crmvvet. The fact that people attacked means that they have acknowledged care about what is happening. An attack like this most likely made it to the news, sending the message out to all of the US. An article in kingency. The ban only dealt with international travel, but that was still a step up making the use of buses ironic. The attacks slowed down the rides, but people still felt otherwise. Many people participated in the freedom rides and they all had their own opinions on it. They had managed to be powerful enough to get white people on their side as well. It was wrong, morally, religiously. Still alive today, Diane Nash is an African American civil rights activist. The campaigns that she ran were the most successful in the era. She saw a problem in the South and that was what motivated her to help set up the rides. The fact that African Americans were able to gain some rights would leave her pretty content. After Jim Farmer left, leaving Jim Peck who he had been friends with for many years, Peck took over not being too happy about it. The people who acted in the Freedom Rides were truly amazing and we should incorporate their kindness into our own lives.

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Chapter 2 : The MLK History Forgot - POLITICO Magazine

Albany Freedom Ride Letters and Chronology Joan Browning [Joan Browning was a Freedom Rider and SNCC activist in Southwest Georgia Transcripts of Albany jail letters from Emory University Robert Woodruff Library Special Collection's "Joan C. Browning papers".

C N Trueman "Freedom Ride" historylearningsite. The History Learning Site, 27 Mar The Freedom Ride took place in Though the Freedom Ride is well known in civil rights history, it was not the first time that segregation in transport had been challenged in the Deep South. In , the Supreme Court ruled that segregated seating on interstate buses was unconstitutional. However, as with everything that the Supreme Court adjudicates on, its ruling only works if the people of America and the governments at state and local level agree to support such a ruling. The ruling by the Supreme Court was not accepted by the South. The so-called Upper Southern states reacted very negatively to the fact that the accepted norm of the South segregation was being challenged. The group met heavy resistance in North Carolina where some of the members of the Journey were arrested and made to work in chain gangs. To many in the civil rights movement, J F Kennedy brought hope that things would change for the better. In this protest, white passengers would sit in seats reserved for black passengers and vice versa. When a bus stopped, whites would use the rest areas reserved for blacks and blacks would attempt to use the rest rooms reserved for whites. The plan was to arrive in New Orleans on May 17th. The significance of this date was plain to all â€” the seventh anniversary of the Brown v Topeka decision by the Supreme Court. This Freedom Ride met little resistance in the Upper South. Connor had given his police in the city the day off to celebrate the day with their family. However, it was also known that the Freedom Ride would be in the city on this day and that any protestors would not be policed. A mob greeted the Riders and many on the bus were severely beaten. The Riders who pulled into Anniston were attacked by a mob of about The bus was stoned and its tyres were slashed. The driver managed to get the bus out of the town but when the driver pulled over to change its tyres some six miles from Anniston, the bus was firebombed. Despite the violence in Birmingham and Anniston, the Freedom Riders were determined to continue with their journey to New Orleans. However, the bus company that provided the buses was fearful of losing more buses and the drivers â€” all white â€” did not want to risk their lives. However, the Freedom Riders had got the national attention that they wanted and with this in hand, they decided to fly to New Orleans. It was at this time that those students involved in the Nashville sit-ins decided to continue with the Freedom Ride. They believed that any perceived weakness in the civil rights movement would play into the hands of the racists â€” and giving in to violence was seen as a weakness by the students who decided to persevere with the bus ride. The Nashville students went to Birmingham in an effort to persuade a bus company to let them have a bus. The students determined that they would go back to Birmingham, regardless of the circumstances they had faced. He put pressure on the Greyhound Bus Company to carry the Riders. Greyhound agreed to do so. The journey between the two cities was about 90 miles and Mann agreed that the route would have several patrol cars on it at any one time. All went well until the bus pulled into Montgomery bus station. Suddenly the Freedom Riders were attacked by a white mob â€” with a minimal police presence. The Riders initially thought that it would be less provocative to leave the bus from the back. One Rider, Jim Zwerg, left the bus first. Zwerg was white and the mob attacked him while other Riders managed to move away. Seigenthaler was beaten unconscious by the mob and Zwerg suffered a severe beating. Mann ordered in state troopers to re-establish law and order. Robert Kennedy expressed his outrage at what had gone on in Montgomery and ordered federal marshals to the city. Martin Luther King addressed a mass meeting in Montgomery in support of the Freedom Riders surrounded by federal marshals. As night came, the church in which King was speaking was surrounded by a mob estimated at about 2, Clearly, the use of federal marshals was seen as no threat. He ordered in state police and the National Guard. The mob dispersed and those in the church left safely. They travelled to Jackson in Mississippi. They were then arrested and moved to a city

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prison. However, there was no mob in Jackson. On May 25th, the Riders were put on trial for refusing to obey a police officer. They were sentenced to 60 days in a state penitentiary at Parchman. More Freedom Riders arrived in the Jackson to continue the journey. The Freedom Riders did not make it to New Orleans but they had made their point and received a great deal of publicity. They had also got the Attorney-General involved. In September, the Interstate Commerce Commission introduced a ruling that was much tighter and less open to interpretation than the Supreme Court ruling of . This ruling, concerning the integration of interstate transport, came into force on November 1st,

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Chapter 3 : The Freedom Rides – Social Change Blog

"We had witnessed persons being kicked off lunch counter stools during the sit-ins, ejected from churches during the kneel-ins, and thrown into jail during the Freedom Rides. But for the first time, we witnessed being kicked out of jail." [12] During this time, prominent evangelist Billy Graham, a close friend of King's who privately advised the.

Freedom Riders Save Freedom Riders were civil rights activists who rode interstate buses into the segregated southern United States in and subsequent years to challenge the non-enforcement of the United States Supreme Court decisions *Morgan v. Virginia* and *Boynton v. Virginia*, [3] which ruled that segregated public buses were unconstitutional. The first Freedom Ride left Washington, D. Carolina Coach Company that had explicitly denounced the *Plessy v. Ferguson* doctrine of separate but equal in interstate bus travel. The Freedom Riders challenged this status quo by riding interstate buses in the South in mixed racial groups to challenge local laws or customs that enforced segregation in seating. The Freedom Rides, and the violent reactions they provoked, bolstered the credibility of the American Civil Rights Movement. They called national attention to the disregard for the federal law and the local violence used to enforce segregation in the southern United States. Police arrested riders for trespassing, unlawful assembly, violating state and local Jim Crow laws, and other alleged offenses, but often they first let white mobs attack them without intervention. The Freedom Rides, beginning in, followed dramatic sit-ins against segregated lunch counters conducted by students and youth throughout the South, and boycotts of retail establishments that maintained segregated facilities. Southern local and state police considered the actions of the Freedom Riders to be criminal and arrested them in some locations. In some localities, such as Birmingham, Alabama, the police cooperated with Ku Klux Klan chapters and other white people opposing the actions, and allowed mobs to attack the riders. Like the Freedom Rides of, the Journey of Reconciliation was intended to test an earlier Supreme Court ruling that banned racial discrimination in interstate travel. Rustin, Igal Roodenko, Joe Felmet and Andrew Johnson, were arrested and sentenced to serve on a chain gang in North Carolina for violating local Jim Crow laws regarding segregated seating on public transportation. Their plan was to ride through Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, ending in New Orleans, Louisiana, where a civil rights rally was planned. Many were in their 40s and 50s. Some were as young as. The rest of the team would sit scattered throughout the rest of the bus. The pair made plans to bring the Ride to an end in Alabama. They assured Gary Thomas Rowe, an FBI informer [10] and member of Eastview Klavern 13 the most violent Klan group in Alabama, that the mob would have fifteen minutes to attack the Freedom Riders without any arrests being made. The plan was to allow an initial assault in Anniston with a final assault taking place in Birmingham. The driver tried to leave the station, but was blocked until KKK members slashed its tires. Sources disagree, but either an exploding fuel tank [12] or an undercover state investigator brandishing a revolver caused the mob to retreat, and the riders escaped the bus. Only warning shots fired into the air by highway patrolmen prevented the riders from being lynched. Some injured riders were taken to Anniston Memorial Hospital. The local civil rights leader Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth organized several cars of black citizens to rescue the injured Freedom Riders in defiance of the white supremacists. The black people were under the leadership of Colonel Stone Johnson and were openly armed as they arrived at the hospital, protecting the Freedom Riders from the mob. They beat the Freedom Riders and left them semi-conscious in the back of the bus. This picture was reclaimed by the FBI from a local journalist who also was beaten and whose camera was smashed. White Freedom Riders were singled out for especially frenzied beatings; James Peck required more than 50 stitches to the wounds in his head. Kennedy, he urged restraint on the part of Freedom Riders and sent an assistant, John Seigenthaler, to Alabama to try to calm the situation. Despite the violence suffered and the threat of more to come, the Freedom Riders intended to continue their journey. Kennedy had arranged an escort for the Riders in order to get them to Montgomery, Alabama, safely. However, radio reports told of a mob awaiting the riders at the bus terminal, as well as on the route to Montgomery. The Greyhound clerks told the Riders

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that their drivers were refusing to drive any Freedom Riders anywhere. When they first boarded the plane, all passengers had to exit because of a bomb threat. She pushed to find replacements to resume the rides. On May 17, a new set of riders, 10 students from Nashville who were active in the Nashville Student Movement, took a bus to Birmingham, where they were arrested by Bull Connor and jailed. On May 19, they attempted to resume the ride, but, terrified by the howling mob surrounding the bus depot, the drivers refused. Harassed and besieged by the mob, the riders waited all night for a bus. They beat the Freedom Riders with baseball bats and iron pipes. The local police allowed the beatings to go on uninterrupted. Reporters and news photographers were attacked first and their cameras destroyed, but one reporter took a photo later of Jim Zwerg in the hospital, showing how he was beaten and bruised. Ambulances refused to take the wounded to the hospital. Local black residents rescued them, and a number of the Freedom Riders were hospitalized. Among the speakers were Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fred Shuttlesworth, and James Farmer. Outside, a mob of more than 3, white people attacked the black attendees, with a handful of the United States Marshals Service protecting the church from assault and fire bombs. With city and state police making no effort to restore order, the civil rights leaders appealed to the President for protection. President Kennedy threatened the governor to intervene with federal troops if he would not protect the people. Governor Patterson forestalled that by finally ordering the Alabama National Guard to disperse the mob, and the Guard reached the church in the early morning. He recounted heroic action by King. After learning that black taxi drivers were arming and forming a group to rescue the people inside, he worried that more violence would result. He selected ten volunteers, who promised non-violence, to escort him through the white mob, which parted to let King and his escorts pass as they marched two by two. King went out to the black drivers and asked them to disperse, to prevent more violence. King and his escorts formally made their way back inside the church, unmolested. The Alabama National Guard finally arrived in the early morning to disperse the mob and safely escorted all the people from the church. Behind the scenes, the Kennedy administration arranged a deal with the governors of Alabama and Mississippi, where the governors agreed that state police and the National Guard would protect the Riders from mob violence. In return, the federal government would not intervene to stop local police from arresting Freedom Riders for violating segregation ordinances when the buses arrived at the depots. Their strategy became one of trying to fill the jails. Abusive treatment there included placement of Riders in the Maximum Security Unit Death Row, issuance of only underwear, no exercise, and no mail privileges. When the Freedom Riders refused to stop singing freedom songs, prison officials took away their mattresses, sheets, and toothbrushes. More Freedom Riders arrived from across the country, and at one time, more than were held in Parchman Farm. Freedom Rider Joan Trumpauer Mulholland said the Womanpower members "were like angels supplying us with just little simple necessities. That ruling had explicitly repudiated the concept of "separate but equal" in the realm of interstate bus travel. Chaired by the South Carolina Democrat J. Monroe Johnson the ICC had failed to implement its own ruling. An unknown number were arrested in other Southern towns. It is estimated that almost people participated in one or more Freedom Rides. During the summer of , Freedom Riders also campaigned against other forms of racial discrimination. They sat together in segregated restaurants, lunch counters and hotels. This was especially effective when they targeted large companies, such as hotel chains. Fearing boycotts in the North, the hotels began to desegregate their businesses. In mid-June, a group of Freedom Riders had scheduled to end their ride in Tallahassee, Florida, with plans to fly home from the Tallahassee airport. At the airport, they decided to eat at a restaurant that was marked "For Whites Only". The owners decided to close rather than serve the mixed group of Freedom Riders. Although the restaurant was privately owned, it was leased from the county government. Canceling their plane reservations, the Riders decided to wait until the restaurant re-opened so they could be served. They waited until During this time, hostile crowds gathered, threatening violence. On June 16, , the Freedom Riders were arrested in Tallahassee for unlawful assembly. Convictions of the Riders were appealed to the US Supreme Court in , which refused to hear the case based on technical reasons. Williams continued his work against segregation however, and was facing repeated attempts on his life because of it. Police and civilian white supremacists roamed the town

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shooting at black people, who returned the gunfire. Williams fortified the black neighborhood against attack and in the process briefly detained a white couple who had gotten lost there. The police accused Williams of kidnapping and called in the state militia and FBI to arrest him, in spite of the couple being quickly released. Certain he would be lynched, Williams fled and eventually found refuge in Cuba. Movement lawyers, eager to disengage from the situation, successfully urged the Freedom Riders not to practice the normal "jail-no bail" strategy in Monroe. Local officials, also apparently eager to de-escalate, found demonstrators guilty but immediately suspended their sentences. Williams, including Mae Mallory. Monroe legal defense committees were popular around the country, but ultimately Lowry and Mallory served prison sentences. In , their convictions were vacated due to the exclusion of black citizens from the jury selection. This would mobilize hundreds, perhaps thousands, of nonviolent demonstrators to the capital city to apply pressure on the ICC and the Kennedy administration. The idea was pre-empted when the ICC finally issued the necessary orders just before the end of the month. After the new ICC rule took effect, passengers were permitted to sit wherever they pleased on interstate buses and trains; "white" and "colored" signs were removed from the terminals; racially segregated drinking fountains, toilets, and waiting rooms serving interstate customers were consolidated; and the lunch counters began serving all customers, regardless of race. The widespread violence provoked by the Freedom Rides sent shock waves through American society.

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Chapter 4 : Freedom Ride - History Learning Site

The Albany Movement. In the summer of King was a supporter of the Freedom Rides, a campaign of bus trips from north to south, intended to desegregate bus stations and lunch counters simply through the use of them.

Like the Freedom Rides of , the Journey of Reconciliation was intended to test an earlier Supreme Court ruling that banned racial discrimination in interstate travel. Rustin, Igal Roodenko , Joe Felmet and Andrew Johnson, were arrested and sentenced to serve on a chain gang in North Carolina for violating local Jim Crow laws regarding segregated seating on public transportation. Their plan was to ride through Virginia , the Carolinas, Georgia , Alabama , and Mississippi , ending in New Orleans, Louisiana , where a civil rights rally was planned. Many were in their 40s and 50s. Some were as young as The rest of the team would sit scattered throughout the rest of the bus. The pair made plans to bring the Ride to an end in Alabama. They assured Gary Thomas Rowe , an FBI informer [10] and member of Eastview Klavern 13 the most violent Klan group in Alabama , that the mob would have fifteen minutes to attack the Freedom Riders without any arrests being made. The plan was to allow an initial assault in Anniston with a final assault taking place in Birmingham. The driver tried to leave the station, but was blocked until KKK members slashed its tires. Sources disagree, but either an exploding fuel tank [12] or an undercover state investigator brandishing a revolver caused the mob to retreat, and the riders escaped the bus. Only warning shots fired into the air by highway patrolmen prevented the riders from being lynched. Some injured riders were taken to Anniston Memorial Hospital. The local civil rights leader Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth organized several cars of black citizens to rescue the injured Freedom Riders in defiance of the white supremacists. The black people were under the leadership of Colonel Stone Johnson and were openly armed as they arrived at the hospital, protecting the Freedom Riders from the mob. They beat the Freedom Riders and left them semi-conscious in the back of the bus. This picture was reclaimed by the FBI from a local journalist who also was beaten and whose camera was smashed. White Freedom Riders were singled out for especially frenzied beatings; James Peck required more than 50 stitches to the wounds in his head. Kennedy , he urged restraint on the part of Freedom Riders and sent an assistant, John Seigenthaler , to Alabama to try to calm the situation. Despite the violence suffered and the threat of more to come, the Freedom Riders intended to continue their journey. Kennedy had arranged an escort for the Riders in order to get them to Montgomery, Alabama , safely. However, radio reports told of a mob awaiting the riders at the bus terminal, as well as on the route to Montgomery. The Greyhound clerks told the Riders that their drivers were refusing to drive any Freedom Riders anywhere. When they first boarded the plane, all passengers had to exit because of a bomb threat. She pushed to find replacements to resume the rides. On May 17, a new set of riders, 10 students from Nashville who were active in the Nashville Student Movement, took a bus to Birmingham, where they were arrested by Bull Connor and jailed. On May 19, they attempted to resume the ride, but, terrified by the howling mob surrounding the bus depot, the drivers refused. Harassed and besieged by the mob, the riders waited all night for a bus. They beat the Freedom Riders with baseball bats and iron pipes. The local police allowed the beatings to go on uninterrupted. Reporters and news photographers were attacked first and their cameras destroyed, but one reporter took a photo later of Jim Zwerg in the hospital, showing how he was beaten and bruised. Ambulances refused to take the wounded to the hospital. Local black residents rescued them, and a number of the Freedom Riders were hospitalized. Among the speakers were Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fred Shuttlesworth , and James Farmer. Outside, a mob of more than 3, white people attacked the black attendees, with a handful of the United States Marshals Service protecting the church from assault and fire bombs. With city and state police making no effort to restore order, the civil rights leaders appealed to the President for protection. President Kennedy threatened the governor to intervene with federal troops if he would not protect the people. Governor Patterson forestalled that by finally ordering the Alabama National Guard to disperse the mob, and the Guard reached the church in the early morning. He recounted heroic action by King. After learning that black taxi drivers were arming and

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Their strategy became one of trying to fill the jails. Abusive treatment there included placement of Riders in the Maximum Security Unit Death Row, issuance of only underwear, no exercise, and no mail privileges. When the Freedom Riders refused to stop singing freedom songs, prison officials took away their mattresses, sheets, and toothbrushes. More Freedom Riders arrived from across the country, and at one time, more than were held in Parchman Farm. Freedom Rider Joan Trumpauer Mulholland said the Womanpower members "were like angels supplying us with just little simple necessities. That ruling had explicitly repudiated the concept of "separate but equal" in the realm of interstate bus travel. Chaired by the South Carolina Democrat J. Monroe Johnson the ICC had failed to implement its own ruling. An unknown number were arrested in other Southern towns. It is estimated that almost people participated in one or more Freedom Rides. 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Local officials, also apparently eager to de-escalate, found demonstrators guilty but immediately suspended their sentences. Williams, including Mae Mallory. Monroe legal defense committees were popular around the country, but ultimately Lowry and Mallory served prison sentences. In , their convictions were vacated due to the exclusion of black citizens from the jury selection. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. May Learn how and when to remove this template message By September it had been over three months since the filing of the petition by Robert Kennedy. This would mobilize hundreds, perhaps thousands, of nonviolent demonstrators to the capital city to apply pressure on the ICC and the Kennedy administration. The idea was pre-empted when the ICC finally issued the necessary orders just before the end of the month. After the new ICC rule took effect, passengers were permitted to sit wherever they pleased on interstate buses and trains; "white" and "colored" signs were removed from the terminals; racially segregated drinking fountains, toilets, and waiting rooms serving interstate customers were consolidated; and the lunch counters began serving all

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customers, regardless of race. The widespread violence provoked by the Freedom Rides sent shock waves through American society. People worried that the Rides were evoking widespread social disorder and racial divergence, an opinion supported and strengthened in many communities by the press. The press in white communities condemned the direct action approach that CORE was taking, while some of the national press negatively portrayed the Riders as provoking unrest. At the same time, the Freedom Rides established great credibility with black and white people throughout the United States and inspired many to engage in direct action for civil rights. Perhaps most significantly, the actions of the Freedom Riders from the North, who faced danger on behalf of southern black citizens, impressed and inspired the many black people living in rural areas throughout the South. They formed the backbone of the wider civil rights movement, who engaged in voter registration and other activities. Southern black activists generally organized around their churches, the center of their communities and a base of moral strength. The Freedom Riders helped inspire participation in other subsequent civil rights campaigns, including voter registration throughout the South, freedom schools, and the Black Power movement. At the time, most black Southerners had been unable to register to vote, due to state constitutions, laws and practices that had effectively disfranchised most of them since the turn of the 20th century. For instance, white administrators supervised reading comprehension and literacy tests that highly educated black people could not pass.

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Chapter 5 : Sit-in - Wikipedia

A high school teacher from Harlem who was inspired by seeing the violence from the sit-ins on TV to go down South to help. Organized the Freedom Vote in and then later helped organize SNCC's Freedom Summer project (see Key Terms).

Eugene "Bull" Connor Tom Cook Freedom Riders were civil rights activists who rode interstate buses into the segregated southern United States in and following years to challenge the non-enforcement of the United States Supreme Court decisions *Irene Morgan v. Commonwealth of Virginia* and *Boynton v. Virginia* , [3] which ruled that segregated public buses were unconstitutional. The first Freedom Ride left Washington, D. Carolina Coach Company that had explicitly denounced the *Plessy v. Ferguson* doctrine of separate but equal in interstate bus travel. The Freedom Riders challenged this status quo by riding interstate buses in the South in mixed racial groups to challenge local laws or customs that enforced segregation in seating. The Freedom Rides, and the violent reactions they provoked, bolstered the credibility of the American Civil Rights Movement. They called national attention to the disregard for the federal law and the local violence used to enforce segregation in the southern United States. Police arrested riders for trespassing , unlawful assembly , and violating state and local Jim Crow laws , along with other alleged offenses, but they often first let white mobs attack them without intervention. The Freedom Rides followed dramatic sit-ins against segregated lunch counters , conducted by students and youth throughout the South, and boycotts of retail establishments that maintained segregated facilities, beginning in Southern local and state police considered the actions of the Freedom Riders as criminal and arrested them in some locations. In some localities, such as Birmingham, Alabama , the police cooperated with Ku Klux Klan chapters and other whites opposing the actions and allowed mobs to attack the riders. Like the Freedom Rides of , the Journey of Reconciliation was intended to test an earlier Supreme Court ruling that banned racial discrimination in interstate travel. Rustin, Igal Roodenko , Joe Felmet and Andrew Johnson, were arrested and sentenced to serve on a chain gang in North Carolina for violating local Jim Crow laws regarding segregated seating on public transportation. Their plan was to ride through Virginia , the Carolinas, Georgia , Alabama , and Mississippi , ending in New Orleans, Louisiana , where a civil rights rally was planned. Many were in their 40s and 50s. Some were as young as The rest of the team would sit scattered throughout the rest of the bus. The pair made plans to bring the Ride to an end in Alabama. They assured Gary Thomas Rowe , an FBI informer [10] and member of Eastview Klavern 13 the most violent Klan group in Alabama , that the mob would have fifteen minutes to attack the Freedom Riders without any arrests being made. The plan was to allow an initial assault in Anniston with a final assault taking place in Birmingham. The driver tried to leave the station, but was blocked until KKK members slashed its tires. Sources disagree, but either an exploding fuel tank [12] or an undercover state investigator brandishing a revolver [14] caused the mob to retreat, and the riders escaped the bus. The mob beat the riders after they escaped the bus. Only warning shots fired into the air by highway patrolmen prevented the riders from being lynched. The local civil rights leader Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth organized several cars of blacks to rescue the injured Freedom Riders in defiance of the white supremacists. The blacks were under the leadership of Colonel Stone Johnson and were openly armed as they arrived at the hospital, protecting the Freedom Riders from the mob. They beat the Freedom Riders and left them semi-conscious in the back of the bus. White Freedom Riders were singled out for especially frenzied beatings; James Peck required more than 50 stitches to the wounds in his head. He sent an assistant, John Seigenthaler , to Alabama to try to calm the situation. Despite the violence suffered and the threat of more to come, the Freedom Riders wanted to continue their journey. Kennedy had arranged an escort for the Riders in order to get them to Montgomery, Alabama , safely. However, radio reports told of the mob awaiting the riders at the bus terminal, as well as on the route to Montgomery. The Greyhound clerks told the Riders that their drivers were refusing to drive any Freedom Riders anywhere. When they first boarded the plane, all passengers had to exit because

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of a bomb threat. She pushed to find replacements to resume the rides. On May 17, a new set of riders, 10 students from Nashville, took a bus to Birmingham, where they were arrested by Bull Connor and jailed. On May 19, they attempted to resume the ride, but, terrified by the howling mob surrounding the bus depot, the drivers refused. Harassed and besieged by the mob, the riders waited all night for a bus. The Highway Patrol abandoned the bus and riders at the Montgomery city limits. At the bus station on South Court Street, a white mob awaited. They beat the Freedom Riders with baseball bats and iron pipes. The local police allowed the beatings to go on uninterrupted. Reporters and news photographers were attacked first and their cameras destroyed, but one reporter took a photo later of Jim Zwerg in the hospital, showing how he was beaten and bruised. Ambulances refused to take the wounded to the hospital. Local blacks rescued them, and a number of the Freedom Riders were hospitalized. Among the speakers were Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fred Shuttlesworth, and James Farmer. Outside, a mob of more than 3, whites attacked blacks, with a handful of the United States Marshals Service protecting the church from assault and fire bombs. With city and state police making no effort to restore order, the civil rights leaders appealed to the President for protection. President Kennedy threatened the governor to intervene with federal troops if he would not protect the people. Governor Patterson forestalled that by finally ordering the Alabama National Guard to disperse the mob, and the Guard reached the church in the early morning. He recounted heroic action by King. After learning that black taxi drivers were arming and forming a group to rescue the people inside, he worried that more violence would result. He selected ten volunteers, who promised non-violence, to escort him through the white mob, which parted to let King and his escorts pass as they marched two by two. King went out to the black drivers and asked them to disperse, to prevent more violence. King and his escorts formally made their way back inside the church, unmolested. The Alabama National Guard finally arrived in the early morning to disperse the mob and safely escorted all the people from the church. Some freedom riders were incarcerated in the Mississippi State Penitentiary. The next day, Monday, May 22, more Freedom Riders from Congress of Racial Equality and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee arrived in Montgomery to continue the rides through the South and replace the wounded riders still in the hospital. Behind the scenes, the Kennedy administration arranged a deal with the governors of Alabama and Mississippi. The governors agreed that state police and the National Guard would protect the Riders from mob violence. In return, the federal government would not intervene to stop local police from arresting Freedom Riders for violating segregation ordinances when the buses arrived at the depots. The riders were immediately arrested when they tried to use the white-only facilities at the depot. Abusive treatment there included placement of Riders in the Maximum Security Unit Death Row, issuance of only underwear, no exercise, and no mail. When the Freedom Riders refused to stop singing freedom songs, prison officials took away their mattresses, sheets, and toothbrushes. More Freedom Riders arrived from across the country, and at one time, more than were held in Parchman Farm. The Soviet Union criticized the United States for its racism and the attacks on the riders. That ruling had explicitly repudiated separate but equal in the realm of interstate bus travel. Chaired by the South Carolina Democrat J. Monroe Johnson, the ICC had failed to implement its own ruling. An unknown number of riders were arrested in other Southern towns. It is estimated that almost riders participated in one or more Freedom Rides. During the summer of, Freedom Riders also campaigned against other forms of racial discrimination. They sat together in segregated restaurants, lunch counters and hotels. This was especially effective when they targeted large companies, such as hotel chains. Fearing boycotts in the North, the hotels began to desegregate their businesses. In mid-June, a group of Freedom Riders had scheduled to end their ride in Tallahassee, Florida, with plans to fly home from the Tallahassee airport. At the airport, they decided to eat at a restaurant that was marked "For Whites Only". The owners decided to close rather than serve the mixed group of Freedom Riders. Although the restaurant was privately owned, it was leased from the county government. Canceling their plane reservations, the Riders decided to wait until the restaurant re-opened so they could be served. They waited until. During this time, hostile crowds gathered, threatening violence. On June 16, the Freedom Riders were arrested in Tallahassee for unlawful assembly. Convictions of the Riders were appealed

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to the US Supreme Court in , which refused to hear the case based on technical reasons. Williams continued his work against segregation however, and was facing repeated attempts on his life because of it. Police and civilian white supremacists roamed the town shooting at blacks, who returned the gunfire. Williams fortified the black neighborhood against attack and in the process briefly detained a white couple who had gotten lost there. The police accused Williams of kidnapping and called in the state militia and FBI to arrest him, in spite of the couple being quickly released. Certain he would be lynched, Williams fled and eventually found refuge in Cuba. Movement lawyers, eager to disengage from the situation, successfully urged the Freedom Riders not to practice the normal "jail-no bail" strategy in Monroe. Local officials, also apparently eager to de-escalate, found demonstrators guilty but immediately suspended their sentences. Williams, including Mae Mallory. Monroe legal defense committees were popular around the country, but ultimately Lowry and Mallory served prison sentences. In , their convictions were vacated due to the exclusion of blacks from the jury selection. This would mobilize hundreds, perhaps thousands, of nonviolent demonstrators to the capital city to apply pressure on the ICC and the Kennedy administration.

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Chapter 6 : Meet the Players: Freedom Riders | American Experience | Official Site | PBS

We had witnessed persons being kicked off lunch counter stools during the sit-ins, ejected from churches during the kneel-ins, and thrown into jail during the Freedom Rides. But for the first time, we witnessed being kicked out of jail.

Portraits of Resistance A few hours later, black and white passengers on a Trailways bus were beaten bloody after they entered whites-only waiting rooms and restaurants at bus terminals in Birmingham and Anniston, Alabama. The bus passengers assaulted that day were Freedom Riders, among the first of more than volunteers who traveled throughout the South on regularly scheduled buses for seven months in to test a Supreme Court decision that declared segregated facilities for interstate passengers illegal. After news stories and photographs of the burning bus and bloody attacks sped around the country, many more people came forward to risk their lives and challenge the racial status quo. Now Eric Etheridge, a veteran magazine editor, provides a visceral tribute to those road warriors in *Breach of Peace: Portraits of the Mississippi Freedom Riders*. Etheridge, who grew up in Carthage, Mississippi, focuses on Freedom Riders who boarded buses to Jackson, Mississippi, from late May to mid-September. He was just 4 years old at the time and unaware of the seismic racial upheaval taking place around him. Eric Etheridge, from *Breach of Peace: Mug shot of Freedom Rider Miller Green*. Courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Miller Green, of Chicago, spent 39 days in a Mississippi prison after his arrest at a bus station: *Mug shot of Freedom Rider Joan Pleune*. First alarmed at their activism, their mother took pride in being introduced as the mother of Freedom Riders. They "embraced me, taught me to play cards and sang freedom songs with me. *Mug shot of Freedom Rider Alphonso Petway*. Courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History "I was by myself in the paddy wagon for a while," recalls the Rev. Alphonso Petway, of Mobile, Alabama, who was 16 when arrested at a "white" cafeteria: I had heard horror stories of people going missing. During a visit with his parents in Jackson in , he was reminded that a lawsuit had forced the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, an agency created in to resist desegregation, to open its archives. The agency files, put online in , included more than arrest photographs of Freedom Riders. Nearly 75 percent of them were between 18 and 30 years old. About half were black; a quarter, women. Their mug-shot expressions hint at their resolve, defiance, pride, vulnerability and fear. Have you ever seen it? The goal of the rides, CORE director James Farmer said as he launched the campaign, was "to create a crisis so that the federal government would be compelled to enforce the law. Those who could not refrain from striking back when pushed, hit, spit on or doused with liquids while racial epithets rang in their ears were rejected. As soon as he heard the call for riders, Robert Singleton remembers, he "was fired up and ready to go. Boarding a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, "I was pretty scared," he told Etheridge. They were so spirited and so unafraid. They were really prepared to risk their lives. While trying to enter a whites-only waiting room in Rock Hill, South Carolina, two men set upon him, battering his face and kicking him in the ribs. Less than two weeks later, he joined a ride bound for Jackson. When activists arrived at the Jackson bus depot, police arrested blacks who refused to heed orders to stay out of white restrooms or vacate the white waiting room. And whites were arrested if they used "colored" facilities. Officials charged the riders with breach of peace, rather than breaking segregation laws. Freedom Riders responded with a strategy they called "jail, no bail"â€”a deliberate effort to clog the penal facilities. Most of the riders in Jackson would endure six weeks in sweltering jail or prison cells rife with mice, insects, soiled mattresses and open toilets. And that was the whole point. To keep up their spirits, the prisoners sang freedom songs. None of the riders Etheridge spoke with expressed regrets, even though some would be entangled for years in legal appeals that went all the way to the Supreme Court which issued a ruling in that led to a reversal of the breach of peace convictions. Like Lewis, Bob Filner, of California, is a congressman. And few former Freedom Riders still practice civil disobedience. Theresa Walker, 80, was arrested in New York City in during a protest over the police killing there the year before of Amadou Diallo, an unarmed immigrant from Guinea. Though the Freedom Rides dramatically demonstrated that some Southern states

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were ignoring the U. Even after the order went into effect, on November 1, , hard-core segregation persisted; still, the "white" and "colored" signs in bus stations across the South began to come down. Obama was born in August , Singleton notes, just when the riders were languishing in Mississippi jails and prisons, trying to "break the back of segregation for all people, but especially for the children.

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Chapter 7 : Freedom Riders - HISTORY

Some were active in civil rights groups like the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), which initiated the Freedom Rides and was founded in on Mahatma Gandhi's principle of nonviolent protest.

Visit Website Charles H. In her eyes, that would be agreeing with the unjust laws. But before she could take a stand against these restaurantsâ€”essentially protesting the government itselfâ€”she needed a plan of action. The spring after she enrolled at Fisk, just shy of 22 years old, Nash became a leader in the Nashville Student Central Committee, which organized sit-ins at discriminatory restaurants throughout the city. Leading up to her first sit-in, in February , Nash worried about being arrested. The success of the sit-ins on May 10 that year would make Nashville the first southern city to desegregate lunch counters in the country. But that was only the beginning for the young activist. In , the Nashville Student Central Committee received a notice from CORE that they were beginning the Freedom Rides , a nonviolent protest to desegregate interstate bus travel and terminals that started in Washington, D. The student activists offered to help in any way they could. Diane Nash and Bree Newsome in Conversation: As the Freedom Rides went from one state to another, the participants found themselves in increasing danger from angry communities vehemently against the idea of integration. The aggression came to a head as the Freedom Rides reached Alabama. The buses were burned and the activists beaten on May 14, , forcing them to retreat to New Orleans. From there, it was up to Nash to carry the torch with a new group of Freedom Riders. Kennedy had instructed his assistant, John Seigenthaler, to speak directly with Nash in an attempt to call off the Freedom Rides. With so much bloodshed in Alabama, he urged the chairwoman to back down from the violence that undoubtedly awaited them on the trail. And this time, she was pregnant. At the time, she was living with her husband, James Bevel , in Jackson. The couple, who met through activism, had been spreading a message of nonviolence within the community. Six months pregnant at the time, Nash went to court to surrender to the authorities. She was facing a two-year prison sentence. She was determined to do everything she could so that her child would enter a world that was equal for all Americans, regardless of race. Nash believes the federal government tapped her telephone line and listened in when she told organizations in the Civil Rights Movement that she was pregnant and headed to jail for up to two years. This left Nash in a predicament. She was ready and willing to serve her full sentence, after all. And though the judge never took her up on the offer, Nash was always ready to do what was necessary to make a mark.

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Chapter 8 : Civil Disobedience: Freedom Rides | Jewish Women's Archive

A veteran of the Nashville sit-ins, Lafayette had already staged a successful impromptu Freedom Ride with his close friend and fellow student activist John Lewis in , while traveling home for.

Ralph Abernathy was a key figure in the Civil Rights Movement of the s and beyond. At one point, the situation seemed so dire that Abernathy and King considered giving themselves up to the mob to save the men, women, and children in the sanctuary. Ralph Abernathy died in . Some of us got up to look out the window and we got hit by more rocks. In the decades following the Freedom Rides, Burks owned a successful jewelry boutique and worked as a social worker, teacher, and Avon cosmetics sales manager. The group was ushered by Jackson police to a waiting paddy wagon; all Riders refused bail. Other Freedom Riders recalled his quick wit and hard-nosed political realism from their shared time at Parchman. The acerbic Carmichael would go on to become one of the leading voices of the Black Power Movement. He died in Conakry, Guinea in of prostate cancer at the age of . In his posthumously published autobiography, Carmichael spoke about the significance of the Freedom Rides: What could be more harmless Benjamin Elton Cox was an outspoken black minister based in High Point, NC who had traveled through the region spreading the gospel of nonviolence during the spring and summer of . Then people in Tel Aviv and Moscow and London would not pick up their newspaper for breakfast and realize that America is not living up to the dream of liberty and justice for all. In Gaither married her boyfriend Jim Davis, a participant in the same ride, and later worked as a job placement director at Spelman College. After successfully completing the Freedom Ride to Tallahassee, the Interfaith Riders had planned to fly home. First, however, they decided to test whether or not the group would be served in the segregated airport restaurant. As a result 10 Freedom Riders, later known as the Tallahassee Ten, were arrested for unlawful assembly and taken to the city jail. They were convicted and sentenced later that same month; legal appeal of the airport arrests continued for years. Dresner returned along with 9 of the original riders to serve brief jail terms in August - and ate triumphantly in the same airport restaurant that had earlier refused them service. Dresner continued his civil rights activism and advocacy throughout his career as a reform Jewish rabbi in northern New Jersey, participating in the Albany campaign to desegregate municipal facilities and in the Selma-to-Montgomery march. He retired in . He endorsed a new name, "Freedom Ride," to win media attention and better communicate the mission and goals of the trip. A child prodigy who earned early fame as a debater, Farmer grew up in Marshall, Texas, where his father, James L. Farmer envisioned the ride as a way to vault CORE and its philosophy of nonviolent direct action to prominence on the national stage, with attendant opportunities for policy-making and fundraising. Farmer took part in the ride, but returned to Washington, D. Like everyone else, I was afraid of what lay in store for us in Alabama, and now that I was to be spared participation in it, I was relieved, which embarrassed me to tears. James Farmer died from complications of diabetes in . At age 19, while a student at Tennessee State University, he had already participated in civil disobedience, traveling to Rock Hill, SC to serve jail time in solidarity with the "Rock Hill Nine" – nine students imprisoned after a lunch counter sit-in. Harbour survived the riot but after the end of the Freedom Rides, still faced hostility in his native Alabama. With the exception of one brief visit, he stayed away from Piedmont for the next five years. After the Freedom Rides, Harbour taught school for several years, and eventually became a civilian federal employee specializing in U. Today, Harbour acts as the unofficial archivist of the Freedom Rider Movement. He moved to Atlanta, GA in . She became active in the New York City chapter of CORE during the late s, helping to organize a boycott of dime stores affiliated with chains resisting desegregation in the South. Alienated from the conservatism of Wall Street, she made the shift to full-time activism in . After being transferred to Hinds County Jail, she led a brief hunger strike among the female Riders. Nobody asked me, nobody told me. After the end of the Freedom Riders campaign, he worked on voting rights and helped to coordinate the Poor Peoples Campaign. He currently teaches at Emory University and conducts nonviolent workshops worldwide. James Lawson

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introduced the principles of Gandhian nonviolence to many future leaders of the s Civil Rights Movement. Born in western Pennsylvania and raised in Ohio, he spent a year in prison as a conscientious objector during the Korean War, as well as three years as a Methodist missionary in India, where he was deeply influenced by the philosophy and techniques of nonviolent resistance developed by Mohandas Gandhi and his followers. In , Lawson moved to Los Angeles to lead Holman United Methodist Church where he served as pastor for 25 years before retiring in . Throughout his career and into retirement, he has remained active in various human rights advocacy campaigns, including immigrant rights and opposition to war and militarism. In recent years he has been a distinguished visiting professor at Vanderbilt University. After his release from Parchman in August , he traveled to participate in the effort to convert the militant black leader Robert Williams to non-violence. He later married fellow Freedom Rider Joy Reagon. Lewis helped to convince his friends and mentors from the Nashville Student Movement to get involved. In , John Lewis was elected to represent Georgia in the U. House of Representatives where he currently is serving his 12th term. The son of a Baptist minister from the Bronx, Moore had already been involved in several sit-ins and marches against segregation as a student at Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina before participating in the Freedom Rides. After graduating from college in , he became a folk and rock musician in Greenwich Village and Woodstock, NY. Moore moved to Los Angeles in , where he conducted street ministry for drug addicts and the homeless, taught computer skills, and coordinated church outreach activities. She was taken to the hospital in Anniston along with the other injured Riders, but the interracial group was not allowed to spend the night. She later received an M. Moultrie taught school in Delaware from , after which she served as a missionary in Liberia, Mexico, and Canada. The group was promptly ushered by Jackson police to a waiting paddy wagon; all nine Riders refused bail. She later worked at the Smithsonian with the Community Relations Service and at the Departments of Commerce and Justice before teaching English as a second language at an Arlington, VA elementary school. Ernest "Rip" Patton, Jr. Patton was one of 14 Tennessee State University students expelled for participating in the Rides. Following the Freedom Rides, he worked as a jazz musician, and later as a long-distance truck driver and community leader. For the past three years, Patton has served as the Freedom Rider on an annual university sponsored Civil Rights tour of the Deep South. Born into the family of a wealthy clothing wholesaler in , Peck was a social outsider at Choate, an elite Connecticut prep school, in part because his family had only recently converted from Judaism to Episcopalianism. At Harvard he quickly gained a reputation as a campus radical, shocking his classmates by bringing a black date to the freshman dance. Peck dropped out after the end of his freshman year, spending several years as an expatriate in Europe and working as a merchant seaman. Returning to the United States in , Peck devoted himself to organizing work and journalism on behalf of pacifist and social justice causes. He spent almost three years in federal prison during World War II as a conscientious objector. After his release from prison in , he rededicated himself to pacifism and militant trade unionism. Peck was finally able to see a doctor at Jefferson Hillman Hospital, where he received 53 stitches. Undeterred by his injuries, he urged the riders to continue. James Peck passed away in . The oldest of six children, he spent four years at Kentucky State University in Frankfort before enlisting for two years in the army in . As a graduate student at the University of Michigan, he demonstrated on behalf of the Southern sit-in movement to end lunch counter segregation. Born and raised in Atlanta, Person had been surrounded by reminders of segregation throughout his life. A gifted math and physics student who dreamed of a career as a scientist, he was refused admission to the all-white Georgia Institute of Technology. While at Morehouse, he became active in the Atlanta sit-in movement to integrate segregated lunch counters in early and was sentenced to 16 days in jail as a result. After the Freedom Rides, Person joined the U. Marines in late , retiring after two decades of active service. He lived in Cuba from . When you grow up and face this humiliation every day, there is no one thing. You always felt that way. On August 22, Thomas became the first Freedom Rider to appeal his conviction for breach of peace. Following the Freedom Rides, Thomas served in the Vietnam War, returning home after being wounded in . In recent years, Thomas has owned and operated several hotel and fast food restaurant franchises in the Atlanta metro

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region. As one of the two whites selected for the May 17 Nashville Movement Freedom Ride, he expected that he would be targeted for violence as a "race traitor. Photographs of a bloodied, beaten Zwerg made headlines around the world. We are prepared to die," Zwerg told reporters from his hospital bed in St. Learn More Related Features.

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Chapter 9 : Freedom Riders - Wikipedia

Parks, swimming pools, hotels, motels," she recalls. "I was at a period where I was interested in expanding: going new places, seeing new things, meeting new people.

The group traveled through Virginia and North Carolina , drawing little public notice. The next day, the group reached Atlanta, Georgia , where some of the riders split off onto a Trailways bus. John Lewis, one of the original group of 13 Freedom Riders, was elected to the U. House of Representatives in November There, an angry mob of about white people surrounded the bus, causing the driver to continue past the bus station. The mob followed the bus in automobiles, and when the tires on the bus blew out, someone threw a bomb into the bus. The Freedom Riders escaped the bus as it burst into flames, only to be brutally beaten by members of the surrounding mob. The second bus, a Trailways vehicle, traveled to Birmingham, Alabama, and those riders were also beaten by an angry white mob, many of whom brandished metal pipes. Following the widespread violence, CORE officials could not find a bus driver who would agree to transport the integrated group, and they decided to abandon the Freedom Rides. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy , brother of President John F. Kennedy , began negotiating with Governor John Patterson of Alabama and the bus companies to secure a driver and state protection for the new group of Freedom Riders. The rides finally resumed, on a Greyhound bus departing Birmingham under police escort, on May Federal Marshals Called In The violence toward the Freedom Riders was not quelledâ€”rather, the police abandoned the Greyhound bus just before it arrived at the Montgomery, Alabama, terminal, where a white mob attacked the riders with baseball bats and clubs as they disembarked. Attorney General Kennedy sent federal marshals to the city to stop the violence. The following night, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. A riot ensued outside the church, and King called Robert Kennedy to ask for protection. Kennedy summoned the federal marshals, who used teargas to disperse the white mob. Patterson declared martial law in the city and dispatched the National Guard to restore order. There, several hundred supporters greeted the riders. However, those who attempted to use the whites-only facilities were arrested for trespassing and taken to the maximum-security penitentiary in Parchman, Mississippi. He sentenced the riders to 30 days in jail. Supreme Court, which reversed them. Relief at Last The violence and arrests continued to garner national and international attention, and drew hundreds of new Freedom Riders to the cause. The rides continued over the next several months, and in the fall of , under pressure from the Kennedy administration, the Interstate Commerce Commission issued regulations prohibiting segregation in interstate transit terminals.