**Montgomery Bus Boycott**

**Source A**

***Excerpt from Bus Ride to Justice by Fred Gray, published by New South Books, Montgomery, Alabama, USE, 2013, p61. Gray was the MIA’s black lawyer.***

Not only were there thousands of African-Americans crowded in and around Holt Street Baptist Church but also a few whites…There was an electricity in the air. Such a feeling of unity, success and enthusiasm had never been before in the city of Montgomery, certainly never demonstrated by African-Americans. The people were together. They were singing. They were praying. They were happy that Mrs. Parks had refused to give up her seat and they were happy that they were part of a movement that ultimately would eradicate segregation on city buses and would set a precedent for the elimination of segregation in almost every other phase of American life. They clapped and shouted ‘Amen’ as the boycott leaders entered the auditorium…The high point of the meeting was the speech by Dr. King. This was the first time he had spoken to so many people. It was the first speech of his career as a civil rights leader.