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TITLE: Civil Rights Investigators Activity in Amite County
and Other Adjoining Counties.

DATE OF INVESTIGATION: May 8, 1964

DATE OF REPORT: May 12, 1964

INVESTIGATED BY: Virgil Downing, Investigator

TYPED BY: M. Rayfield

This investigator received a telephone call from Sheriff Daniel Jones of Amite County stating that a man was arrested in Amite County on May 4, 1964, for a traffic violation, and he had discovered quite a bit of information in this mans possession that he thought would be of interest to this Commission. He requested that I contact him at the earliest date possible and he would give me all information he had regarding what he had found in the possession of this individual. I stated to Sheriff Jones over the telephone that I was sure this Commission was interested in obtaining this information and I would contact him as soon as possible.

On May 8, 1964, this investigator proceeded to Amite County and on arriving in Liberty, Mississippi, the county seat of Amite County, I contacted Sheriff Daniel Jones and he immediately furnished me with the following information regarding the arrest of John Dorsey Due, Jr., colored male, who is an attorney from the state of Florida. His associate was Emma Bell, colored female, acting as his secretary and whose address is 620 Lynch Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Sheriff Jones stated that he understood Emma Bell was formerly from McComb, Mississippi and she has been very active in civil rights and NAACP activities throughout Mississippi.

Sheriff Jones stated that John Dorsey Due, Jr., gave his address as Tallahassee, Florida and was a practicing

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attorney in the state of Florida. Sheriff Jones stated that this subject was arrested on May 4, 1964, for a traffic violation by Highway Patrolman, Donald Butler, for failing to yield the right of way to an emergency vehicle. He stated that he put up a cash bond of \$100.00 to the Justice of the Peace, N. T. Bell of beat one, Amite County. Sheriff Daniels stated that they confiscated his brief case and the information he obtained from his note books and brief case displayed membership in several organizations as follows: The NAACP, CORE and Martin Luther Kings organization, known as the Southern Christian Leadersip Conference..SCLS. He further stated that the information he obtained from his literature and notes shows that he was investigating civil rights violations, police brutality and beating of Negroes - also the killing of Negroes in Copiah, Lincoln, Pike, Amite, Franklin, Wilkinson, Adams and Jefferson Davis Counties - also he was making an investigation of all cross burnings in these counties. He was to make an investigation of the Voters Registration Drive in these counties and to make an investigation in Rosedale, Mississippi and Greenwood regarding the firing of Negroes in these places.

Sheriff Daniels further stated that when this individual was arrested he was driving a rental car owned by the Hertz Rental Car Company and he was to retain this automobile through May 7, 1964.

Sheriff Jones stated that on the following day May 5, 1964, the above subject, John Dorsey Due, Jr., appeared at the court house in Amite County with a white man who represented himself as an attorney for the purpose of obtaining a court order to have the belongings of John Dorsey Due, Jr., released from their custody. Sheriff Jones stated that he knew he could not hold the belongings of this individual very long and he willfully returned them to him.

He stated that John Dorsey Due, Jr., was fined \$25.00 each on two charges and the court cost was \$19.00. He stated that the above subject paid this fine and cost to Justice of the Peace, N. T. Bellue of beat one of Amite County on May 5, 1964.

This is the end of my report of all information obtained from Sheriff Daniel Jones of Amite County regarding this subject.