

LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI
MAY 4, 1964

Attorney John Due, while on a trip through southwestern Mississippi to gather affidavits for an Advisory committee to the Civil Rights Commission hearing to be held in Natchez on May 6, was arrested and charged with failing to stop for an emergency vehicle and reckless driving. Late Tuesday Night, May 4, Due was driving in the Liberty area when he encountered a squad car with a flashing ~~amber~~ red light parked on the side of the road; a bit farther down the road a man was waving a flashlight. The car in front of Due slowly drove by at the urging of the man with the flashlight. Due did the same. He was arrested on the above charges and his bond was set at \$100. Approximately 6 affidavits were confiscated as was a list of contacts to be made in the area. Hoping to retrieve the material before the police discovered the importance of their find, Due plead guilty when the police refused to return the information and documents. After much questioning and the payment of \$25 for each of the charges, the police returned the papers, but only after they had thoroughly inspected it, undoubtedly recording its contents.

Due was working for the National Council of Churches at the time of his arrest.