

Annual Report of Mr. C. R. Darden, President
at the 14th Annual Mississippi State Conference of
N.A.A.C.P. Branches, Saturday, November 7, 1959.

This will be a brief report in that branch presidents and secretaries have been kept up to date by news letters each month since our last annual meeting. This report will make mention of a few of the many activities for the year.

Dec, 1958, I attended the Southeast Regional Advisory Board Meeting in Miami, Florida.

January, 1959, I attended the Annual Meeting of the N.A.A.C.P., New York City, in conjunction with the National Board Meeting. I served on the committee for the nomination of national officers.

March 15, 1959, I was guest speaker for the Milwaukee Branch N.A.A.C.P., Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As a result of my exposing Mississippi's technique of retarding education of Negroes through erecting buildings that look like schools, the liability insurance was cancelled on my car.

April 13, 1959, I attended the meeting of the National Board of Directors N.A.A.C.P., New York City.

April 24, 1959, my testimony, along with Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Barnes of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, was given in the House Office Building, Washington, D. C., before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil Rights. As a result of my testimony, the insurance on my furniture was cancelled. I was told by the agent that the cancellation was due to my NAACP activities.

May 11, 1959, I attended the National Board Meeting N.A.A.C.P., New York City, because of the serious difficulty and embarrassing position the N.A.A.C.P. was faced with because of the met-violence-with-violence statement to the press by Robert Williams, President of the Monroe County, North Carolina Branch N.A.A.C.P.

May 14, 1959, I was arrested on trumped-up charges that I "deliberately" disturbed a session of a public school by taking pictures of suspended students, including two of my sons, because they wore small tags bearing the inscription "U.S. Supreme Court's Decision, May 17, 1954." The principal of the school (T.J. Harris High School), W. A. Reed, Jr., had me arrested at home an hour or so after pictures were made.

I went to Washington, D. C., May 22, 1959, for the INHOFEP Convention on hospital integration and returned to Meridian for my trial in police court, Monday, May 25th. I was fined \$50.00, but refused to pay a fine which I did not deserve to pay.

June 8, 1959, I answered the call of the North Carolina State Conference of N.A.A.C.P. Branches to attend the National Board Meeting in New York (at my own expense) because of the national climate created by Mr. Robert Williams' statement which ^{was} supported by a group who had as their objective to split the N.A.A.C.P.

June 17, 1959, I was called upon by the Waterloo, Iowa Branch NAACP to testify in the extradition case of Thomas C. Roby of Waterloo, Iowa, who was alleged to have fired on a white man night club operator in Holmes County, Mississippi. Mississippi served extradition papers on Roby on the State of Iowa after he had been beaten by the club operator. I answered this call by working with a committee of five lawyers in Des Moines, Iowa. After a ten minute hearing before Governor Lovelace of Iowa, extradition was denied. I remained in Waterloo, Iowa and spoke for a mass meeting, Saturday night, June 20, and made appearances in two churches, Sunday, June 21.

July 12, 1959, I was guest speaker for the New Rochel New York Branch N.A.A.C.P., New Rochel, New York.

July 13, 1959, I attended the 50th Annual Convention in New York.

On September 18, 1959, immediately after I returned from the National Board Meeting in New York, I went to trial in County Court with Attorney R. Jess Brown and Attorney A. P. Turead of New Orleans, La., as legal counsellors. This time I was charged with "intent" to disturb a session of a public school. Attorney Brown filed a motion for a continued case, as we were not prepared to go to trial on the ammended affadivit. Today, I still have a \$50.00 fine against me.

May I urge each of you to hold on, fight on. No man can be enslaved who does not want to be a slave. I have always considered the money spent and the time I have sacrificed for the State Conference NAACP a contribution, and not money lost, nor time lost. I shall continue to serve, giving my valuable time and energies to the State Conference as long as I am president.