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AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE they kept coming to the last rites for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the martyred apostle of peace and non-violence. Dr. King was assassinated Thursday, April 4, 1968. Young, old, rich and poor, mourned the world around as nearly 500,000 persons poured into Atlanta, Ga. for the April 9, 1968 funeral and burial. His death marked the end of an era in the Civil Rights movement.

Dr. W. E. B. Dubois, a fighter 50 years, died the night before the '63 March

W. E. B. DuBois, the American scholar and passionate fighter for civil rights who became a citizen of Ghana Republic, died Aug. 27, 1963. He was 95-years-old.

A Government announcement of his death was issued as American residents in Accra demonstrated at the United States Embassy in support of the civil rights March on Washington.

Dr. DuBois, who settled in Ghana in 1962, came at the personal invitation of President Kwame Nkrumah.

He became editor of the Encyclopedia Africana, a work sponsored by the Government.

50 YEARS A FREEDOM FIGHTER

William Edward Burghardt DuBois, historian and sociologist, became an expatriate at the age of 94 after he had spent more than a half a century fighting for Negro rights in the United States.

Dr. DuBois helped to found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, in 1948 after he had lost patience with what he felt was too timid an approach by that group in the civil rights battle for American Negroes.

BEFORE THE MARCH

His death came on the eve of the March on Washington, the largest single demonstration for civil rights ever held, of which the N.A.A.C.P. was a principal sponsor.

Some time before leaving the United States, Dr. DuBois wrote a bitter commentary on the lot of a sensitive American black intellectual:

"I was not an American. I was not a man. I was, by long education and daily reminder, a colored man in a white world."

In 1961, Dr. DuBois joined the Communist Party. He had been a supporter of Communist causes for many years before that.

His withdrawal from the N.A.A.C.P. in 1948 was specifically in protest against a decision by the group to send a representative to the United Nations General Assembly in Paris but it came at the time the N.A.A.C.P. was purging itself of Communists and Communist supporters.

MY MIND IS SETTLED

In his letter of application, dated Oct. 1, 1961, for Communist Party membership, Dr. DuBois wrote: "I have been long and slow in coming to this conclusion, but at last my mind is settled."

Dr. DuBois made it clear that he did not embrace Communism solely on the issue of black rights.

He wrote:

"Capitalism cannot reform itself; it is doomed to self-destruction. The path of the American Communist Party is clear: It will provide the United States with a real third party and thus restore democracy to this land."

He disagreed with the doctrine, of Booker T. Washington, the Negro educator, that the Negro should raise himself by his bootstraps and strive for a basically vocational education. Dr. DuBois envisioned the highest possible education of a "talented 10th" that would lead a self-sufficient black society.

But he opposed the idea of an autonomous black republic in the South when that was being suggested by the Communist Party here.

GREAT AUTHOR

Dr. DuBois was the author of 19 books. His "Suppression of the Slave Trade," published in 1896 as Volume I of the Harvard University Historical Series, became a college textbook. His last was "Worlds of Color" (1961). Among his other books were "Souls of Black Folk" (1903), "Darkwater" (1920), "Dark Princess" (1924) and "The World and Africa" (1947).

FORMER EDITOR OF 'CRISIS'

From 1910 to 1933 he was editor of "Crisis," the N.A.A.C.P. publication. Between 1931 and 1946 he edited "The Encyclopedia of the Negro" and in 1945 he edited and presented to the United Nations "An Appeal to the World," a document on the status of the black man in the United States.

Dr. DuBois was born in Great Barrington, Mass., on Feb. 23, 1868, five years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

His father, a shopkeeper, was of French-West Indian ancestry. His mother was of African Negro and Dutch ancestry.

ATTENDED FISK

Their brown-skinned son wrote later in his autobiography, "Dusk at Dawn," that he had "a flood of Negro blood, a strain of French, a bit of Dutch, but, thank God, no Anglo-Saxon."

He went to Fisk University and after his first year spent his summer vacation teaching in the rural South, where he lived among former slaves, slept on clay floors and ate from an iron pot. He received a B.A. degree from Fisk in 1888 and from Harvard in 1890. Five years later he received a Ph.D. from Harvard.

A grant from the John F. Slater Fund made possible two years of study in Europe. He attended the University of Berlin and visited Poland.

It was during this time that Dr. DuBois began to see America's race problem, the problems of colonial peoples in Africa and Asia and the political development of Europe as facets of a worldwide problem.

TAUGHT AT 3 UNIVERSITIES

After teaching successively at Wilberforce University, the University of Pennsylvania and Atlanta University, Dr. DuBois interrupted his career as an educator in 1909 to devote full time to the NAACP. By 1934 his growing policy differences with other leaders of the organization led to his first withdrawal.

He went back to Atlanta University, but 10 years later he returned to the N.A.A.C.P. leadership group. By then, his course was already set far to the left of the organization, and the final split came in 1948.

Dr. DuBois served as consultant to the United Nations on its formation in San Francisco in 1945. He later became head of the Council on African Affairs.

In 1949 he was made chairman of the Peace Information Center in New York. The center was the sponsor in this country for the so-called Stockholm Peace Petition, which was characterized by the Secretary of State Dean Acheson as Communist-inspired.

ACQUITTED

Dr. DuBois and other officers of the center were indicted by a Federal grand jury on a charge of failure to register as foreign agents.

They were acquitted after a trial in which the chief defense counsel was a former United States Representative, the late Vito Marcantonio.

In 1950 Dr. DuBois ran unsuccessfully for United States Senator on the American Labor party ticket.

Two years later he received the Grand International Prize of the World Peace Council, headed by the French physicist Frederic Joliot-Curie.

VISITED SOVIET AND CHINA

In recent years, Dr. DuBois traveled extensively in Communist China and the Soviet Union.

On his 91st birthday, he was honored in Peking at a celebration attended by Premier Chou En-lai.

In 1959, Dr. DuBois received the Lenin Peace Prize "for strengthening world peace."

Dr. DuBois was the first black man to be elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

He was also a life member and fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He was a short, erect man, somewhat forman in manner. He often wore a pince-nez and he carried a cane. He had a white goatee and trim mustache.

Before he went to Ghana, he lived at 31 Grace Court, Brooklyn Heights.

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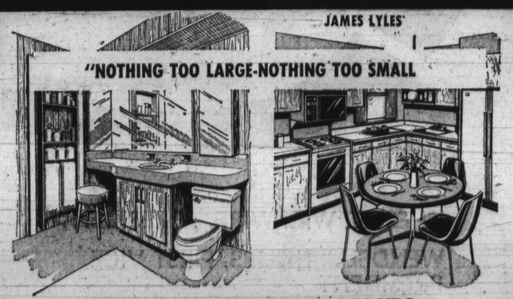

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