

# Electric Half Hour On TV with DuBois

By DAVID PLATT

NOW that Mike Wallace, New York's most talked-about TV personality, has moved on to newer pastures (Sundays at 10 p.m. on ABC-TV) his popular "Nightbeat"

heard locally on Dumont's Channel 5 at 11 p.m. five nights a week has acquired a new format.

Instead of one, a panel of several interviewers will take turns at questioning the guests, including Jimmie Cannon, sports writer, Al Morgan, author of the novel and film "The Great Man," Mary Margaret McBride, well known to followers of morning and afternoon programs on radio and TV.



W. E. B. DuBOIS

The new setup was launched day before yesterday day with the eminent Negro historian, novelist, poet and octogenarian Dr. W. E. Burghardt Du Bois as the first guest. Al Morgan occupied on this night the chair vacated by Wallace.

He gave Dr. DuBois an excellent introduction: In 1909 he helped organize the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). For twenty years he edited its official organ "Crisis". In 1950 he was the American Labor Party's candidate for U.S. Senate, receiving 250,000 votes. He is the author of many dis-

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# Movies, TV and...

by david platt

## An Electric Half-Hour on TV With Dr. W.E.B. DuBois

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tinguished books on the American Negro and African affairs, including "Black Reconstruction", a study of the post-Civil War era which won high praise in the New York Times, and a trilogy, "Ordeal of Mansart". Last but not least, he described Dr. DuBois as a vigorous crusader for world peace causes.

Morgan queried his guest about his difficulties in getting a passport from the State Department, his association with the NAACP, his views on the Soviet Union, Hungary and the future of socialism in the United States.

One must commend "Nightbeat" for allowing Dr. DuBois this opportunity to speak his piece before thousands of New Yorkers on TV. For it is a tragic fact of our time that this world-famous American like Paul Robeson is a long-standing victim of blacklisting. He cannot get his books published by the big publishing houses. He has been shut out from the major lecture bureaus. His right to travel abroad has been taken away from him.

This was Dr. DuBois' first appearance on TV. The 89-year-old scholar cut an impressive figure as he answered each question thrown at him, forthrightly and with quiet dignity. He was always honest and courageous in his replies even when he took what this reporter felt was a dogmatic position on Hungary and a somewhat sweeping negative attitude to the foreign-affairs reporting of the capitalist press.

"How would you describe yourself?" Morgan asked Dr. DuBois at one point. "Are you a communist? A socialist? A conservative?"

"I am certainly not a conservative", he replied. "I should call myself a socialist, although it is not a very definite term. I believe in the welfare state. I believe that society should be organized not for private profit but for the public welfare."

Asked how he felt about Khrushchev's prophesy on CBS TV that within two generations America will have socialism, Dr. DuBois said he didn't know about "two generations" but "certainly the United States will become a socialist state. There is nothing else for it to become. We cannot go on being ruled by businessmen for private profit. We have taken many steps toward socialism. We will take more."

Socialism, he added later, will come about through the sacrifice, love and sympathy of Americans for one another. And it will come about democratically, not through violence. "There was a time", he said, "When I felt that the only way the darker peoples of the world would win their independence would be by killing a large number of whites. Most of us are beginning to realize that that need not happen."

Next, Morgan reminded Dr. DuBois that on page 163 of his book "Battle For Peace", published five years ago, he held up the Soviet Union as the most hopeful nation on earth.

"Do you still feel that way", he asked.

"I still feel that way".

"Does Russia come closest to your idea of socialism?"

"Yes, Russia and China".

"What major criticism do you have of the Soviet Union".

Bureaucracy is one, he said.

Then Dr. DuBois went on to defend the course of Soviet history since the revolution and the curtailment of freedoms there on the ground that the country was surrounded by enemies.

"But when you consider what Russia was before the revolution, the progress which the people have made there since has been simply phenomenal. That is the thing which evokes my great admiration".

"What about Hungary?"

Dr. DuBois' opinion was that American business interests played the dominant role in the recent tragic events in that socialist country.

"Do you think the newspapers of America report foreign affairs truthfully?"

"I do not", he said flatly, adding:

"When I first went to Russia in 1926 I landed at Kronstadt. It was a dead city with weeds growing on the cobblestones and only a few people in rags walking dejectedly through the streets. Ships were rotting in the harbor. That very day the New York Times reported a revolution had broken out in that city and the streets were flowing with blood".

"What paper do you read?" Morgan asked.

"The New York Times".

"Do you think the Daily Worker reports the foreign

## A Marching Song

By ALGERNON CHARLES  
SWINBURNE

(English poet of nature and liberty, 1837-1909)

We mix from many lands,  
We march for very far;  
In hearts and lips and hands  
Our staffs and weapons are;  
The light we walk in darkens  
sun and moon and star.

It doth not flame and wane  
With years and spheres that roll,  
Storm cannot shake nor stain  
The strength that makes it whole,  
The fire that moulds and moves  
it of the sovereign soul . . .

From the edge of harsh derision,  
From discord and defeat,  
From doubt and lame division,  
We pluck the fruit and eat;  
And the mouth finds it bitter,  
and the spirit sweet . . .

O nations undivided,  
O single people and free,  
We dreamers, we derided,  
We mad blind men that see,  
We bear witness ere ye come  
that ye shall be.

Ye sitting among tombs,  
Ye standing round the gate,  
Whom firemouthed war consumes,  
Or cold-lipped peace bids wait,  
All tombs and bars shall open,  
every grave and grate . . .

O sorrowing hearts of slaves,  
We heard you beat from far!  
We bring the light that saves,  
We bring the morning star;  
Freedom's good things we bring  
you, whence all good things  
are . . .

Rise, ere the dawn be risen;  
Come, and be all souls fed;  
From field and street and prison  
Come, for the feast is spread;  
Live, for the truth is living; wake,  
for night is dead.

## DEMOCRAC

There can be no que  
exclusive interview with S  
on "Face The Nation" Sun  
ism at its enterprising be  
of the highest level. It v  
realization of tv's tremend  
great instruments toward b  
together and helping the  
"Face The Nation" was, in

Yet there were rumbl  
day (Tues.) that some of ou  
within the Congressional  
CBS' commendable enterp  
before many more hours  
emanating from high D. C.  
the network for inspiring  
mitted the nation's viewers  
intimate range.

Any such attempt to  
best would be most unfortu

-Ed

## Federal Arts Bill Backed by 400 In the Arts

An appeal to Congress to pa  
this year pending legislation settin  
up a Federal Advisory Council o  
the Arts was signed by four hun  
dred men and women in the arts  
was revealed at a meeting on Mon  
day of the National Council on th  
Arts and Government at the Whi  
ney Museum of American Art, 2  
W. 54 St. Clarence Derwent, pre  
siding, also read a message backin  
the legislation from Herbert H  
Lehman. The former New York  
senator actively supported a Fed  
eral arts project last year.

## Walt Disney Film On '1776' Out Soon

The spying-underground busi  
ness gets some exposure in "John  
ny Tremaine," Walt Disney's stor

## LETTER FROM PRAGUE

## TELLS OF AN UNUSUAL 'LITT IN TOWN WHERE 'BUDWEISE

By ELEANOR WHEELER  
PRAGUE

A theatre arousing a great deal  
of discussion and interest in Czech  
oslovakia is located many miles  
from the capital. It is a little theatre  
—450 seats—and "only 250 of them  
any good", complains the director—  
in the South Bohemian town of  
Ceske Budejovice — which actually  
is the "home of Budweiser beer."  
It is a town of 40,000 — or 60,000  
counting nearby settlements.

A glimpse at part of the reper  
toire for the winter season 1956-  
57 shows the variety of plays,  
operettas and operas offered in  
this "small-town" theatre: Puccini's  
"Madame Butterfly", a new Czech

comedy, "Dancing Through  
Tears", Strauss' "Die Fledermaus"  
the 19th century Czech classic  
"Granmother" by B. Nemcova,  
Weber's "Die Freischutz", Shakes  
peare's "Othello", Tchaikovsky's  
"Eugene Onegin", and Feucht  
wanger's "The Devil in Boston".

The last-named was an interest  
ing production for Americans. The  
South Bohemian Theatre was the  
first to present it in Czechoslov  
vakia. Although Czech history has  
no counterpart to the Puritan nar  
rowness and witch-burning (the  
nearest to it is the era of "Dark  
ness" or forcible re-Catholicizing  
of a 90 percent Hussite population  
in the 17th century), the oppressive

news accurately?"

"Sometimes it does. But the Daily Worker's facilities are limited".

"Do you think the Russian press reports American news accurately?" Morgan shot back.

"The Russian press is slanted and controlled", he said, but not as much as the U.S. press. He added that it does not falsify American life. Anyone who has been there, he said, knows there is no hatred for the American people in the Soviet Union.

Asked why he was dismissed from the NAACP of which he was one of the founding fathers, he said, "there was misunderstanding on both sides". He was 75 years old. They gave him a post which they thought would be an easy way to his death. Instead Dr. DuBois, vigorous, youthful, yearning for new fields to conquer, became quite active. He wrote books, lectured at universities, wrote appeals to the United Nations. Above all he involved himself in the problems of the African people. To the NAACP at that time this was going far afield.

When Morgan interrupted to say that according to the NAACP he was asked to resign because of his political outlook, Dr. DuBois replied that his political beliefs didn't enter the picture until after he was dismissed.

All in all Dr. DuBois provided an electric half-hour on TV.