

THEY ARE TRYING TO SENTENCE DR. DuBOIS TO DEATH

By DOXEY A. WILKERSON

If anyone doubts the full fascist potentialities of our government, let him consider the Justice Department's effort to put the renowned 83-year-old scholar and people's leader, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, in prison for five years. This sentence would be tantamount to death. But this apparently means no more to the heartless rulers of our nation than it would to Franco or Hitler.

The calloused Truman Administration, now hell-bent for war, is jeopardizing the life of Dr. DuBois for political reasons—because he and his associates in the former Peace Information Center dared to speak up for peace and to publish information about the peace movement in our country and throughout the world. For this they face trial two weeks from now in Washington.

This prosecution of the four PIC officials and their clerical worker is high governmental policy, probably emanating from the State Department itself. Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, educator Elizabeth Moss, World War II veteran and

peace leader Abbott Simon, businessman Kyrle Elkin, and office worker Sylvia Soloff are symbols of the developing peace movement which our ruling circles are determined to smash.

2 MILLION SIGNATURES

The war-bound gentlemen in the State Department were nearly scared out of their spats last year when more than 2,000,000 people in our country signed the World (Stockholm) Peace Appeal for the outlawing of atomic warfare. Something had to be done to curb this "dangerous" movement among the American people for peace, especially after the fighting had actually been started in Korea.

The Stockholm Appeal, like the International Red Cross declaration against atomic warfare and many other peace statements, had been circulated in our country by the Peace Information Center. So Dr. DuBois and his associates were ordered to register—of all things!—as "foreign agents." Had they complied, they would have helped to slander and discredit the U. S. peace movement as "un-American," as an alien importation from

abroad. This, of course, was precisely what the State Department wanted to accomplish.

But Dr. DuBois and his associates refused to tell the lie that they were "agents of a foreign principal." They insisted, in all truth, that the Peace Information Center was an organization controlled and financed entirely within the United States, with no "agency" relationship to any other organization or person in the world. Moreover, they refused to grant that peace is a "foreign idea"; and they protested against this violation of their constitutional right to speak for peace.

As chairman of PIC, Dr. DuBois made repeated requests for an appointment to discuss the issue with the Department of Justice. All his requests were ignored. Instead, in February, 1951—four months after the PIC had been disbanded!—the four officers and clerical worker were indicted for alleged violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. They were handcuffed, fingerprinted, and hauled into court like common criminals. Their trial is sched-

uled for Nov. 1.

"It is a curious thing," remarked Dr. DuBois, "that I am called upon to defend myself against criminal charges for openly advocating the one thing all people want—PEACE." This indictment is curious, indeed, when viewed in the light of our traditional right of free speech. But it is not so 'curious' when seen against the background of U. S. foreign policy for war.

The Peace petitions and declarations circulated by the Peace Information Center 'caught on' in a big way among the people of our country. They helped give rise here to a powerful upsurge for peace which our rulers feared might develop ideological unity with the mighty movement for peace on a world scale—a movement, incidentally, which registered 500,000,000 signatures to the Stockholm Appeal. Thus, the tiny PIC and its personnel were swept into the vortex of the most crucial struggles of our time—the struggle between the world camp of imperialism, war and fascism,

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Trying to Destroy Dr. DuBois

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on the one hand, and the world camp of socialism, democracy and peace, on the other.

The stakes sought by the Truman-Acheson war policy are extremely high—no less than U. S. imperialist domination and plunder of the peoples and resources of the whole world for Wall Street super-profits. Opposition to this policy must be crushed. Dr. DuBois and his associates are bright symbols of the widespread opposition of the U. S. people to the war drive of the Truman Administration. They must be crushed.

The cruel and vindictive character of this prosecution is not its most sinister feature. Even more ominous is its deliberate, fascist-like threat against the millions of our countrymen who, even now, continue to speak out for peace. As stated by Judge Hubert T. Delaney: "If an outstanding American like Dr. DuBois . . . could be indicted because he was an officer sponsoring a petition for peace . . . then few of us are safe from attack. . . ."

This prosecution is directed in a special way against the Negro people, who are not only overwhelmingly opposed to war, but who are also raising ever more militant demands for full democratic rights in this land whose government is fully tolerant of the outrageous ice-Cro riots but still prates about "extending freedom throughout the world."

During more than 50 years of public life, Dr. DuBois has become the leading and universally honored spokesman of the Negro's struggle for full citizenship. His prosecution is designed to frighten all other Negro leaders into silence. In the words of P. L. Prattis, editor of the Pittsburgh Courier: "The handcuffs on DuBois are meant to serve as a GAG on any Negro leadership that is disposed to 'shoot the works' for freedom."

I have talked with many people who, although outraged at this indictment, still find comfort in the thought that "they wouldn't dare put DuBois in prison." This "it-can't-happen-here" complacency is dangerous. If this case goes on trial, we may expect the Justice Department to use all the stool-pigeons and frame-up tricks which it commands so well in an effort to guarantee conviction.

THE ONLY THING THAT CAN SAVE DR. DuBOIS AND HIS ASSOCIATES IS FOR THE PEOPLE TO INTERVENE.

The next few days should bring a mighty wave of protest against this immoral prosecution of Dr. Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, one of the most eminent and honorable scholars and leaders this country has produced, and of his four associates in the former Peace Information Center.

- Letters, telegrams, resolutions and delegations should urge President Harry S. Truman and Attorney General J. Howard McGrath to drop these shameful indictments.

- Financial contributions should be sent quickly to Miss Shirley Graham, treasurer, National Committee to Defend Dr. W. E. B. DuBois and Associates in the Peace Information Center, Room 1225, 16-18 West 29 St., New York, N. Y. Literature on the case should be obtained from the Committee and distributed.

Bishop R. R. Wright, Jr., of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, recently expressed the sentiments of all those who cherish peace and freedom, but which only the mass protests of an outraged people can translate into life. Speaking at Town Hall in New York City, he declared: **"PEACE—WE MUST NOT LOSE IT. DUBOIS, OUR SYMBOL, MUST NOT BE HURT."**

GON BUDGET'

to "reverse the policy of billions for war armaments and to enact federal legislation granting funds to states and cities for a constructive school building program, and that it call on Gov. Dewey to place on the agenda of the Legislature a \$500 million state bond issue for new schools.

Union Sq.

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was a borough of working people who need hundreds of new houses, and, he added, "You cannot get homes by killing Koreans."

Mulzac was introduced by Charles Collins, Negro leader who said, "The ALP is calling this meeting to stop the warmakers from plunging the world into another bloodbath. We intend to live for democracy instead of dying for Wall Street.

Arthur Schutzer, ALP state executive secretary, stated, as the crowd cheered: "We will defend the real interests of the American people by fighting for peace."

Leon Straus, executive secretary, Fur Joint Board, stated, "A year ago the police were able to smash a Union Square peace rally. But today the people are more aroused than ever over peace."

Straus added, "Our government has taken over the leadership of the old Berlin-Tokyo-Rome war axis."