DuBois Called Great American Pr ophet

This wrong headed American, 50 years ago reversed the direction of a whole people and demanded full equality at a time when most colored people were learning how to be quiet enough not to be lynched.

By JOHN JASPER

Fisk University senior, 1888. This is beardless Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois at the age of 20.

Truman Nelson, writing in the current issue of THE NATION, January 25th issue, calls Dr. W. E. B. DuBois who will be 90 years old this month one of the great American prophets.

Anybody could say today—he says that:

"We want manhood suffrage and we want it : w, henceforth and forever.

"We want the Constitution of the country enforced.

"We want Congress to take charge of the elections and the 14th Amendment to be carried out to the letter.

"We want black boys and girls to know, to think, to aspire.

"We will get these things where we can vote by unceasing agitation. by hammering at the truth, by sacrifice and work."

But Dr. DuBois said this in 1906 when he was a lone voice crying in the wilderness.

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IT TAKES A brave Catholic to take issue with the Pope, a brave Jew to denounce or disown Moses. Booker T. Washington was both of these for ten million colored people at the turn of the century.

During Washington's period as spokesman for the colored people, the whole body of Jim Crow caste laws was passed in the South, there were hundreds of lynchings yearly.

But Booker T's emphasis was on the **shortcomings** of colored people, so that the weight was put on the colored man himself.

Rich whites supported Booker T. Washington — Andrew Carnegie made Washington a gift of $600-000 for Tuskegee.

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DuBOIS ALMOST singlehandedly set himself against the Booker T. Washington movement, Mr. Nelson declares.

Like John Brown nefore him, DuBois crossed the border into Canada to mobilize a program of revolt against voluntary segregation.

In one of the most moving organizations in human history, DuBois and the black men of the Niagara Movement met at Harper's Ferry, W. Va., and walked barefoot over the flinty roads in a pilgrimage to the site of John Brown's fort.

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THEY STOOD there in the broad and southern daylight and their bare flesh pressing on the spot marked by the blood of the white man, who had plainly burned the blood out of white supremacy, dedicated themselves to a program of positive, non-violet action.

Here DuBois addressed to the people of the United States a message that said,

"Here we reconsecrate ourselves, our honor, our property, to the final emancipation of the race which John Brown died to make free."

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NELSON HAZARDS the guess; that if there had been a stronger NAACP, at that time colored people would long ago have had their rights.

"There has been some contention," he says, "about who founded the NAACP, but there is no doubt that DuBois fertilized it and made it grow."

DuBois has been rewarded as this country nearly always rewards its prophets.

He was arrested, as were Garrison, Phillips, Higginson and others. The charge against DuBois was that he was an agent of a foreign power.

John Gunther called DuBois as almost like Shaw or Einstein in his field.

Henry Steele Commager, in his "Men Who Make Up Our Minds," equated DuBois with Franklin and Jefferson.

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DuBOIS HAS BEEN praised by Eugene O'Neill and other great American minds, but this American prophet, after he had been fingerprinted, handcuffed, jailed and tried, found a terrible blight seemed to settle over his virtues and powers.

He was excluded from press and publishing business.

He could not even get a passport to go abroad and express himself.

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"BUT," SAYS Nelson, "DuBois was just strong-headed enough fifty years ago to reverse the direction of a race and demand full equality as a minimum at a time when most colored people were learning how to be quiet enough not to be lynched."

DR. W. E. B. DU BOIS—As he looks today. He will be 90 years old this February 23.

Jest For Laffs

"I'll lay ya' three-to-one odds that the wolf can't blow down the third little pig's house."

EGG-HEAD CHIC

The doe - eyed, blonde and svelte beauty asked the librarian for a good book to read.

"Do you want something light or do you prefer heavier books?" she was asked.

"It really doesn't matter," the beauty declared. "I have my car outside."

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COPYWRITER SPECIALIST

A large Madison Avenue advertising firm was interviewing a copywriter for a job on a cigaret account. He was asked if he had worked on cigaret accounts.

Oh, yes.

On king size cigarets?

Yes.

King size filters? Yes:

King size cork tip filters?

Yes.

King size cork tip filters in a flip top box?

Yes.

Mentholated king size cork tip filters in a flip top box?

No. Not mentholated.

Well, I'm terriby sorry. We need an expert.

Soft Boiled

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said, blinking. Her faith in human nature died hard. "I just can't believe he was a miser. All the evidence points that way — but I don't believe he could look me in the eye the way he did — with all that money in his pocket. . . . Look. Joe, couldn't we miss the first show and go by the morgue? Maybe—"

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SHE BROKE OFF when a diner entered the restaurant and spoke loudly to a friend:

"The final edition throws a new light on the death of that panhandler this afternoon," the man declared with a chuckle. "Can you imagine it? Everybody was calling him a miser because he had six thousand dollars in his coat lining."

"You're doggone right he was," Joe snapped.

The first speaker brandished his paper.

"Read the latest, smart guy. It says here that a man has been to the morgue and has claimed the coat the dead man was wearing — and the money too.

"The man's wife gave the coat to the panhandler this morning — and the poor guy died without discovering the fortune he had rubbing against his ribs."

Stella turned when a hand touched her arm. It was Joe.

"All right," he was saying, "we'll go by the morgue. We can catch the show any night this week."

AFRO Magazine Section

AN INTERVIEW WITH

Mrs. Roosevelt

"There is no race problem in Russia," Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt told the AFRO-AMERICAN in an exclusive interview following her recent visit to the Soviet Union.

"Of course, there are colored people in Russia," she said, "most of them from America. But they are very few and stay in the larger cities."

However, Mrs. Roosevelt did say that Russia has many dark complexioned people, natives of the many countries that comprise the Soviet Union, but they are not racially different.

By Alvin E. White

"Colored people are not strangers to Russia," Mrs. F. D. R. told me.

"Every day numbers of them from newly created countries in in Asia and Africa visit Russia as guests of the Soviet government.

"Scores of them are from the new African nations.

"The reason is that the Russians are seeking to impress them and trying to win their friendship and support.

"This was brought to me most forcibly one night while attending a performance in Moscow's leading theater.

"Directly at my right was a party of twenty Sudanese.

"They were guests of the government and being showered with every courtesy imaginable.

"In the Soviet, it is a hard and fast rule that the first three rows in every theater in Russia — the very best seats in the house — must be reserved for foreign visitors.

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"THIS IS only one part of the vast, calculated program Russia sponsors toward achieving their goal of world domination.

"They see a communistic world as the law of the future.

"They have set no time limit on this achievement — it may take 50 years or it may take 500, but the Russians firmly believe that Communism will be the next great force in the world.

"They tell you Feudalism was tried and failed; they say Capitalism — now on trial — is failing therefore Communism is the salvation of the world.

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DESCRIBING educational progress in the Soviet, Mrs. Roosevelt was impressed with the quantity and quality of training of young scientists.

"In the United States," she said, "we use all of our science graduates.

"But Russia can't possibly absorb all of her graduates under the present condition.

"Therefore, she uses them as missionaries, willingly paying their salaries and sending them to undeveloped nations free of any cost.

"Before any young scientist goes to a foreign country, he must learn the language of that country.

"I was told of a young man being sent to Burma. Before he was permitted to leave Russia, he had to learn every native dialect of the land.

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"RUSSIAN COLLEGE students must learn two languages other than Russian.

"In the training program, there are careful progress checks made periodically.

"If the student shows a lack of aptitude in one particular course, he is transferred to another.

"Of course, at the same time, they are learning every angle and phase of the 'Marxian theory which they are supposed to interpret and disseminate wherever they are sent.

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"WE CANNOT compare Russian ideas of freedom with our own. You must remember Russian leaders were peasants a short 40 years ago.

"It is impossible for them to have the same idea of freedom which we have, backed up by our hundreds of years of conditioning.

"I was impressed by the attitude of the people in the streets.

"They all seemed to wear an 'anxious look'—that's the best way I can describe it.

"They know they are being watched constantly and they will not talk unless they are told to do so.

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"IN THE big department store windows in Moscow, many fine things are on display. However, they are priced out of the reach of the average buyer. He must take the cheaper things to which he is more accustomed.

"The Russians' cultural program though, is superb. They excel in the ballet, the opera and the stage.

"We can teach them nothing in these fields. That's why it is a waste of time and money to send them 'cultural programs' like we send other nations.

"Otherwise, the United States is a showcase of what a free world can be.

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"THE RUSSIANS consider the United States their greatest menace. Before World War II, it was the Germans who were called Russia's greatest enemy.

"Now, all Russians are led to believe that it is America.

"This thought is driven into the Russian mind in every conceivable manner — particularly with the use of the symbol of peace, the Dove.

"Everywhere in the Soviet, you see the doves, pictures, images, live ones — all symbolic of peace.

"This same symbol is used to enslave the Russian. He is told his pay is small because the government has to spend huge sums on armaments and armies to insure peace, especially with a war-like nation as the United States, ready to destroy Russia.

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"I FOUND it possible to talk to Russian officials.

"They always answered my questions.

"They have been accused of not giving information. Perhaps they weren't asked direct.

"For instance, a friend told me the Russians had purchased a number of fine cattle, the Santa Gertrudis breed, from the King Ranch in Texas.

"This special breed thrives in semi-tropical areas.

"This friend wondered what had happened to the cattle.

"I asked if he'd ever tried to find out. When he said no, I told him I'd ask the Agriculture secretary.

"I made it my business to ask and was promptly told: 'Why they were sent down to the Ukraine where the climate is more suited to them. They are doing fine, in fact, they all have little ones now.'

"That is an example of what I mean. We don't ask direct questions. Perhaps if we did, we'd get direct answers."

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THE TALK then turned to Mrs. Roosevelt's present work.

She is a staff member of the American Association for the United Nations.

"After severing my connection with the United States Mission to the United Nations three years ago, I came here on a

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Marian Anderson For State Visit

"On the race question, Russia is aware of everything that happens in the United States. Little Rock and other racial events are given wide spread publicity by government propaganda agencies.

"Yet on the other hand, Russians speak warmly of the visit of the 'Porgy and Bess' troupe. That was the greatest good will gesture ever made the Soviets.

"In my thinking, an even greater gesture and a far more forceful one would be for the State Department to sponsor a tour of Russia by that wonderful woman and superb artist, Miss Marian Anderson.

"What she accomplished on her recent tour in the Orient, would not only be repeated in Russia, I am sure, but the results would be of inestimable value to the United States in eradicating many false beliefs the average Russian holds."

Mrs. Roosevelt was reminded that Miss Anderson toured Russia in the early days of her career—even before she gained recognition in the United States.

Mrs. Roosevelt was aware of this, but she contended that a tour by Miss Anderson today, endorsed by the State Department, would carry more prestige.

Besides, Miss Anderson herself would be more competent as an artist and as a diplomat.

Paul Robeson

As a parting shot, Mrs. Roosevelt said:

"I can understand why Paul Robeson went to Russia to live, but I can't see why he wanted to raise his son in that kind of freedom.

"Yes, the people 'enjoy freedom,' but when my secretary and I landed in Copenhagen, our first stop on leaving Soviet Russia, we saw smiling faces for the first time.

"I had a feeling that a great weight had been lifted from my shoulders.

"These people knew what freedom really meant and they were enjoying it.

"Not so in Russia."