

Succumbs at 95



DR. W. E. B. DuBOIS

Life of Irony Ends:

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois Dies on Eve Of March He Suggested in 1903

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OF THE TRIBUNE STAFF

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, one of the original founders of the NAACP and perhaps the first man to propose a Negro march on Washington, died Tuesday night in Accra, Ghana, at age 95, on the eve of the great march he had urged in 1903.

The famed author, historian, and educator died as he had lived — alone, unloved, and unappreciated by the masses of Negroes he had tried all through life to help. He remained an "Angry Young Man" to his final breath.

Embittered and ostracized by his own people because of his controversial philosophies, he had joined the Communist party two years ago — at age 83 — in hopes of finding the political utopia he had sought in the U.S.

It is ironic that much of what

is happening to the Negro now — the courts and in the streets — was urged by Dr. DuBois half a century ago. It is equally ironic that Negro leaders of today snubbed him and his counsel just as they did 50 years ago.

William Edward Burghardt DuBois was destined from the day of his birth always to espouse the unpopular cause.

RIVAL OF BOOKER T.

In the early 1900's, he shunned the philosophy of Booker T. Washington, the great Negro leader of that day, ~~disdaining~~ Washington's advice to Negroes to "cast down your bucket where you are."

DuBois labeled this advice as a form of compromise which would lead to a separate Negro society, never quite equal to the white man's.

Instead, Dr. DuBois insisted that
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W. E. B. DuBois

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the Negro wage a "fight to obtain without compromise such rights and privileges as belonged to members of the civilization of which he was a part."

His own fight took sharp, ironic twists.

NAACP QUARREL

A bitter policy dispute led to his resignation from the NAACP in 1934. The organization advocated all-out desegregation everywhere. Dr. DuBois had begun advising voluntary Negro segregation as a means of "self-independence" and an antidote to white discrimination.

Dr. DuBois again found himself at odds with NAACP leaders when he returned to the association to serve as director of special research from 1944 to 1948.

He drew a rebuke for advocating a civil rights march on Washington at a time that others in the organization thought it unwise. The final break and his resignation came when he endorsed Henry A. Wallace's Progressive party candidacy for President, defying the NAACP's policy of non-partisanship.

(Concluded Tuesday)

— A Negro State Senator —