

DEAD NOW

W. E. B. DuBois on Communism

The greatest living American scholar, the NAACP founder and peerless freedom fighter — Dr. W. E. B. DuBois—cited the indispensable necessity to struggle for the attainment of the lofty aims of the Communist Party if conditions are to be established in our country for the most complete realization of full equality and freedom for the Negro people. In his famous letter to Communist leader Gus Hall, upon the occasion of his joining the Communist Party on October 1, 1961, Dr. DuBois expressed the judgment of history when he wrote:

"Capitalism cannot reform itself; it is doomed to self-destruction. No universal selfishness can bring social good to all.

"Communism — the effort to give all men what they need and to ask of each the best they can contribute — this the only way of human life. It is a difficult and hard end to reach — it has and will make mistakes, but today it marches triumphantly on in education and science, in home and food, with increased freedom of thought and deliverance from dogma. In the end Communism will triumph. I want to help to bring that day.

"The path of the Communist Party of the United States is clear: It will provide the United States with a real Third Party and thus restore democracy to this land."

The foregoing programs cannot reach their full potential with a weak Communist Party. One does not have to agree with the full program of the Party* to understand its special role in affecting changes within our society.

* Throughout its history the Communist Party has been a proud participant in the struggles of the Negro people for freedom, equality and justice. The Negro people, like all oppressed people and classes, are plundered by capitalism, or under the heel of imperialist domination. Increasingly they will become aware that their most cherished aspirations and needs are reflected in the program of the Communists, in their science of social emancipation, Marxism-Leninism and in their noble goal of replacing the reign of capitalists by a new social order—socialism and communism—which promises a truly just society without exploiting classes, a society of material abundance and cultural richness equally accessible to all.

Communists are expected to take their place in the front ranks of the fighters for the rights of the Negro people against their oppressors and racist defamers. The struggle for Negro rights requires a continuous and effective ideological campaign against racism, against every manifestation of "white supremacy" thinking and big nation chauvinism. It has been and remains the duty of Communists to patiently and persistently point out to the workers that anti-Negro racism is the ideology of the ruling class, that its purpose and effect is to wring super-profits out of the sweat of the doubly exploited Negro workers and to frustrate the demands of the trade union and all workers for a greater share of their production. It has been and remains our duty to point out, without ceasing, that the racist denial of political and social rights to the Negro people of the South is the shield behind which the Dixiecrat-

Regardless of how one views the Communist Party, the record shows that the contributions the Party has made to civil rights were indispensable. Without exaggerating the role of the Communist Party, one can safely say that as a political party, it has helped to produce in this period many of the forces comparable to the Abolitionists and the radical Republicans of the Civil War and Reconstruction period. The class forces are not the same. During that period, the capitalist class led the forces of the nation which eventually ended slavery. Today, a new class, the working class, must take command of the march of history.

The Negro People and the Communist Party

The Communist Party, a working class party, armed with the theoretical experience of all previous revolutionary changes, is best equipped to understand the nature of the forces that are required to travel down freedom's road. The Party, in its forty-three year history, has made mistakes in its estimates from time to time. But such mistakes have been of a tactical nature. An objective evaluation will show that this Party has a unique role to play in

minded capitalists restrict the exercise of democratic rights by all Southerners and sustain the reactionary rule of monopoly in the country as a whole.

Particularly in light of the upsurge for colonial independence in the East, in light of the accomplishments of the Chinese People's Republic, the emergence of India as a potent world fact, the straining of the whole African continent against centuries-old shackles, it is our responsibility to convince all sections of the American masses that the cause of Negro freedom serves the cause of world peace.

Many among the staunchest and most farseeing sons and daughters of the Negro people join the Communist Party. The Communist Party is the vanguard of the working class and the Negro People's movements. It is the Party of Negro and white unity in the struggle for social justice and world peace.

The Communist is one with the people. Whether on the job, in the neighborhood or in a particular organization, the Communist seeks to help the people in their strivings to better their conditions. He helps the people to recognize and support those policies and programs which truly advance and serve their interests, and to fight most effectively against those programs, conditions, and forces which harm the people and hold back their progress.

The Communist has no interest alien to the best interests of the people. Their aspirations for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" are his deepest commitment.

The source of the Communist's strength is in his membership in the Communist Party. Here he equips himself with the generalized experience of all who serve in good causes, of all those who struggle for the welfare of the people on a thousand fronts. He studies the laws of social development and change in order to serve the people better. He seeks to master the science of Marxism-Leninism. He exchanges experiences with his comrades and deepens his understanding of the problems of our times and how best to assist the people in working for their solution.

Early in its formative years the Communist Party put forward a program for full economic, political and social equality of the Negro people. It was the first political party in the United States to do so. This demand sloganizes its program today.

* From: The 17th Convention Resolution on the Negro Question 1959.