

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **100-1764**

REPORT MADE AT <b>ATLANTA, GEORGIA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>11-12-42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8-4; 9-10, 11, 12, 15, 18, 28; 10-26, 27, 28</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>WILLIAM EDWARD BUREHARDT DUBOIS</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - CUSTODIAL DETENTION.</b>	

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE**

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

[REDACTED] advised subject is Professor [REDACTED] at Atlanta University and considered to be one of most outstanding and competent negroes in Atlanta, that several talks were heard to be made by the subject but he did not say anything to indicate he was subversive, that while not a member of the Communist Party he was in sympathy with the Southern Negro Congress. Writings of subject in book "Dusk of Dawn", edited 1940, reflect mention of Japan's defeat of Russia as giving rise to fear of colored revolt against white exploitation. In this book he writes that he is not a Communist but that the basic American negro creed is the ultimate triumph of some form of socialism the world over. Subject's aim is to improve the status of the whole negro group. In this book he wrote "I tried to say to the American negro.....'you must put behind your demands, not simply American negroes, but West Indians and Africans and all the colored races in the world. Leads set out.

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APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP10C/ML/7/1/80

REASON FOR EXT. 1-2.4.2

DATE OF REVIEW 7/1/80

Reviews released

- P -

**REFERENCE:** Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated July 29, 1942, at Charlotte, North Carolina.

**DETAILS: AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA:**

[REDACTED] disclosed that the subject's address in Atlanta is 223 Chestnut Street, SW and that he has another property address at 2302 Montebelle Terrace, Baltimore, Maryland. [REDACTED] is 71 years of age, married with his wife as dependent. His social and economic characteristics are good. His employment is said to be Atlanta.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
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University where he has been a professor of Sociology for six years. His income is approximately \$4500 per year and his net worth is estimated to be several thousands of dollars. [REDACTED] the information was obtained that the subject was formerly employed by a newspaper in New York City for several years and returned to Atlanta six years ago. In June, 1936 he was appointed editor of the Encyclopedia "Negro" and since that time has been devoting a part of his time to compiling this encyclopedia. [REDACTED]

He is highly recommended by his employers and is considered to be respectable and is said to own a home in Baltimore, Maryland at the address stated above.

[REDACTED] was contacted as to further information but was unable to offer same. He stated that he believed the subject to be a radical in his attitude on the racial and negro question. He also said that he had heard that the subject may have played a prominent part in the riot in Tulsa, Oklahoma several years ago in which a number of negroes were killed. He stated that it was discovered that the subject was headed to New York from Tulsa, Oklahoma the day after the riot occurred. He was unable to offer any information as to the subversive activities of the subject in Atlanta.

The records at the Police Department, Atlanta, Georgia were checked under the subject's name with negative results.

[REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] in a memorandum submitted by him on September 15, 1940

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in which he stated that he had contacted [REDACTED] whose identity is known to the Bureau, and this informant had stated that the subject is a Professor at Atlanta University and is considered to be one of the most outstanding and prominent negroes in Atlanta. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This informant also advised that the subject is frequently called upon by negro lodges and Civic organizations to make addresses, that he had heard him make several talks but had never heard him say anything which would indicate that he is subversive.

5 The subject according to this informant, while not a member of the Communist Party was one who was known to be in sympathy with the Southern Negro Youth Congress [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had no definite information which would indicate that the subject knew the Southern Negro Youth Congress was dominated by Communists but [REDACTED] he would have such knowledge inasmuch as he is an intelligent man. This informant concluded that [REDACTED] would make a special effort to find out when the subject was to speak next and would be in attendance at his talk in an effort to ascertain whether he was spreading propaganda through his speeches.

In order to obtain some indication of the subject's attitude and tendencies in foreign sympathies the writer read parts of "Dusk of Dawn", a book edited by the writer in 1940. This book was copyrighted in 1940 by Harcourt, Brace and Company, Incorporated and is an essay toward an autobiography of a race concept. It also contains the writer's autobiography.

Information was contained in this book that the subject was born February 23, 1868 at Great Barrington, Massachusetts and that his ancestral family was divided into whites, blacks and mulattoes, most of them being mulattoes. The subject wrote and published a number of books from 1899 through 1940 most of which dealt with the problems of the negro race.

The following are quotations from the book, "Dusk of Dawn" edited by the subject on the date mentioned above:

On Page 232, "It is evident too that the defeat of Russia by Japan had given rise to a fear of colored revolt against white exploitation."

On Page 246, referring to the first World War, "Then came the refusal to allow colored soldiers to volunteer into the army; but we are

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consoled by saying 'Why should we want to fight for America or America's friends and how sure could we be that America's enemies were our enemies too?'

Page 255, "Today I do not know; and I doubt if the triumph of Germany in 1918 could have had worse results than the triumph of the Allies. Possibly passive resistance of my twelve millions to any war activity might have saved the world for black and white. Almost certainly such a proposal on my part would have fallen short and perhaps slaughtered the American negro body and soul. I do not know. I am puzzled."

Page 256, referring to JOEL SPINGARN, of the NAACP, "It was due to his advice and influence that I became during the World War nearer to feeling myself a real and full American than ever before or since."

Page 266, Anti-Lynching bill, 1924, died with the filibuster in the United States Senate, "It was not until years after that I knew what killed that anti-lynching bill. It was a bargain between the South and the West. By the bargain, lynching was let to go on uncurbed by federal Law, on condition that the Japanese be excluded from the United States."

Page 52, "Europe was determined to dominate China and all but succeeded in dividing it between the chief white nations, when Japan stopped the process."

Page 301, speaking of program for assisting negroes economically, "I stood, as it seemed to me, between paths diverging to extreme Communism and violence on the one hand and extreme reaction toward plutocracy on the other."

Page 302, "I am not and was not a Communist. I do not believe in the dogma of inevitable revolution in order to right economic wrong. On the other hand I believed and still believe that KARL MARX was one of the greatest men of modern times and that he put his fingers squarely upon our difficulties when he said that economic foundations, the way in which men earn their living, are the determining factors in the development of civilization and the basic pattern of culture."

Page 304, "The whole set of the White world in America, in Europe and in the World was too determinedly against racial equality to give power and persuasiveness to our agitation. I tried to say to the American negro ..... 'You must put your demands not simply to American negroes but West Indians, Africans and all the colored races in the world.'"

Page 320, referring to the basic negro creed, "We believe in the ultimate triumph of some form of socialism the world over; that is, common ownership and control of the means of production and equality of income."

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The writings in this book indicate that the subject is a socialist and does not claim to be a Communist. He appears to favor equality between the white and colored races and the primary purpose of his efforts is the advancement of the colored people.

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