

PAUL ROBESON

October 25, 1951.

A2/E/A

Dear Friend,

A week from today-- on November 1st-- the foremost Negro scholar in the U.S. will be brought to trial in Washington.

I make no secret of my anger over the legal lynching of Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois and his four associates in the Peace Information Center. From the beginning, the attack on Dr. Du Bois has been not only a vicious attempt to silence all who speak for peace, but a calculated insult to the Negro people.

It is a bitter thing to witness the handcuffing and fingerprinting of a great, gentle 83 year old leader of his people. It is bitter, yes, but out of this bitterness there comes a resolve to fight back, to hit hard-- to win.

I write to you because I know you share my shock and anger. I write to you also because today-- one week before Dr. Du Bois comes to trial-- the funds for his legal defense are not on hand.

I ask you to speed your dollars to me in the enclosed envelope now. Your help will do more than defend Dr. Du Bois. It will serve notice that you join your voice with his, that with him you say, as he has said:

"I take my stand beside the millions in every nation and continent and cry PEACE-- NO MORE WAR!"

Paul Robeson

November 28, 1951

Dear Friend:

"Judge Tosses Out DuBois Case" read the headline on Nov. 21.

A major victory was won for free speech and thought and for peace when Federal Judge McGuire ruled that the Government had no valid evidence against Dr. W. E. B. DuBois and his co-defendants of the Peace Information Center and without even hearing defense evidence directed a not guilty verdict.

Because they had distributed news of the peace activities throughout America and the world, and peace literature of the most varied kind including the Quaker, International Red Cross and Stockholm Appeals, the foremost Negro scholar and leader, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois and four associates were prosecuted as "agents of a foreign principal."

The New York Compass said editorially, "By his (Judge McGuire's) ruling he has helped restore some measure of freedom of opinion to this country, in the best democratic tradition. And he has rebuked the persistent governmental effort to make peace and treason synonymous It is a victory for civil liberties and the fight for peace that should mark a turning point in the persistent effort to convert the Department of Justice into a Department of Thought Control These cases should not, of course, ever have come to trial. There was no reason -- no valid excuse, even -- for the indictment."

The defendants are not guilty but, having been put through the ordeal of a long trial on counterfeit charges, they have been subjected to many thousands of dollars of expense. Lawyers fees and expenses still to be paid amount to \$6000.

If you agree with us that it is unjust that the victims of this prosecution should in addition be financially impoverished, will you not fold a one dollar bill inside this letter -- or a check for a larger amount -- and mail it to Committee to Defend Dr. DuBois and Associates, 16 West 29th St., New York City 1, N. Y.

Sincerely yours,

Albert C. Dieffenbach

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