

NAACP Leadership Split on Tactics of Betraying Negroes

Control of "The Crisis" Passes from Du Bois to Walter White

By CYRIL BRIGGS

NEW YORK.—A drive has been begun to eliminate Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois from the top leading clique of white imperialists and Negro reformists in control of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Steps already have been taken to limit his political control of the "Crisis," organ of the Association.

The fight has developed to such an extent that friends of DuBois have formed a committee for his defense, headed by John S. Brown, Jr., 247 W. 149th St. On Feb. 5, Dr. DuBois complained to this committee that "without consultation with me, the Board of Directors of the N.A.A.C.P. voted to put the 'sole and exclusive control' of The Crisis in the hands of the business manager (George Streater) and the assistant secretary (Roy Wilkins), and they made the assistant secretary a member of The Crisis board and did not place the business manager upon it. This meant that the control of The Crisis virtually passed to the office of the secretary (Walter White)."

Dr. DuBois, as the clearest spokesman of Negro bourgeois nationalism, senses the growing difficulties facing the N.A.A.C.P. as a result of the rising revolutionary mood of the Negro masses, the discrediting of the N.A.A.C.P. leadership in the Scottsboro, Jordan and other cases, and the growth of a genuine rank and file opposition within the N.A.A.C.P. itself. He now attempts to distort the rank and file opposition, based on the mass indignation against the traitorous policies of the whole leadership, for his own ends, declaring:

"I am ready to unite with any persons who think as I do in a determined effort to rescue this great organization and to prepare it for a new and worthy future."

What disturbs Dr. DuBois is the inadequacy of the tactics of the present leadership in the present situation of upsurge of the Negro masses. He sees the necessity of a more desperate form of demagoguery in order to divert the Negro masses from the revolutionary fight against imperialism, from joint struggle with the white toiling masses for their everyday demands and for the overthrow of the jim-crow capitalist system.

It is, thus, not a quarrel on principle or fundamental differences on which the top leadership of the N. A. A. C. P. is split, but on the tactics in carrying through the fundamental policy, which is to throttle the rising liberation movement of the Negro masses, strengthen the waning illusions in the "fairness" of the capitalist state and courts—as attempted in the introduction of the Costigan-Wagner "anti-lynching" bill, sponsored by the N.A.A.C.P. reformist leader—and to continue the jim-crow isolation of the Negro masses.