

(Thunder, September 1963)

DU BOIS FOUGHT COLONIALISM AND INJUSTICE **– Tribute by Janet Jagan, PPP General Secretary**

Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, one of America's foremost scholars, died in Ghana at the age of 96. Dr. Du Bois, author of over 15 books, is known widely for his classics – *The Souls of Black Folk*, *Black Reconstruction* and *The World of Africa*. In academic circles he is renowned for his work in historical, anthropological and sociological research.

Dr. Du Bois joined the Communist Party in the latter part of his life and departed for Ghana where he was invited by Dr. Nkrumah to direct the compilation of an Encyclopaedia Africana. His life was devoted to the emancipation of the colonial and oppressed people. He fought for the rights of the Negro people in the United States and was one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured Peoples and was the first editor of its fighting organ, *The Crisis*.

Pan African Movement

Dr. Du Bois was a pioneer of the Pan African Movement and was the secretary of the first Pan African Congress held in London in 1909. In 1919 he organised another Pan African Congress in Paris. The fifth Pan African Congress held in 1945 in Manchester organised by Dr. Nkrumah and George Padmore, was chaired by Dr. Du Bois.

In a tribute to Dr. Du Bois, the President of Ghana said: "The essential quality of Du Bois' life and achievement can be summed up in a single phrase: intellectual honesty and integrity." Referring to his work with Dr. Du Bois in the 1945 Pan African Congress, Dr. Nkrumah said, "It was at this Congress in Manchester that I was drawn to him. Since then he has been personally a real friend and father to me."

Support for Guyana's Independence

Dr. Jagan met Du Bois and his wife Shirley Graham in New York shortly before their departure for Ghana. He offered his wholehearted moral support for the Guianese struggle for independence and discussed with Dr. Jagan many of the problems facing leaders of colonial territories.

Dr. Du Bois was happy in having as his wife a woman as equally distinguished as himself in the field of letters. Shirley Graham is the distinguished author of *There was Once a Slave – The Heroic Story of Frederick Douglass*, *Dr. George Washington Carver, Scientist*, and *Paul Robeson, Citizen of the World*.

The People's Progressive Party sent a cable of condolence to Shirley Graham on the death of her beloved and distinguished husband.