



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

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DuBois, W. E. B., testimonial, 1951.



# W. E. B. DuBois Testimonial Sponsoring Committee

7 WEST 125th STREET

NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

DR. E. FRANKLIN FRAZIER

Chairman

MRS. ALICIA BURGHARDT CRAWFORD

Executive Secretary

DR. WALTER N. BEEKMAN

Treasurer

January 24, 1951

*Received  
Jan 1-1879*

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
19810 Shaker St.  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I have consented to serve as chairman of a National Sponsoring Committee of citizens who are planning to tender Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois a testimonial dinner on the occasion of his eighty-third birthday. The affair will be held at the Essex House, New York City, on February 23, 1951.

Our Committee also wishes to have identified with this tribute to one who has few peers, both as scholar and courageous champion of human freedom, men and women who likewise in many fields are known for their inestimable contributions to human progress.

We should consider it a great privilege to have you as an Honorary Chairman of this testimonial dinner.

Since I am in Washington and the Committee is functioning out of New York, to facilitate matters, I would appreciate your addressing your response to the secretary of the Committee, Mrs. Alicia B. Crawford, 7 West 125th St., New York City.

It is my sincere hope that we can have your acceptance of this invitation to join in this opportunity to advance our own interests as we do honor to a great man.

Sincerely yours,

*E. Franklin Frazier*

E. Franklin Frazier

*Howard Clair  
Presumb  
6/100*

*Worth  
7539*



January 26, 1951

Mrs. Alicia B. Crawford, Secretary  
W.E.B. DuBois Testimonial Sponsoring Committee  
7 West 125th Street  
New York 27, New York

My dear Mrs. Crawford:

I am replying to Dr. Frazier's letter of January 24th. I shall be pleased to serve as an Honorary Chairman of the testimonial dinner being tendered Dr. W. E. B. DuBois on the occasion of his 83rd birthday.

With best wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er



# W. E. B. DuBois Testimonial Sponsoring Committee

7 WEST 125th STREET

NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

February 7, 1951

DR. E. FRANKLIN FRAZIER

*Chairman*

MRS. ALICIA BURGHARDT CRAWFORD

*Executive Secretary*

DR. WALTER N. BEEKMAN

*Treasurer*

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

As Dr. E. Franklin Frazier is in Washington and only comes in on the week end he has asked me to write extending to you our wholehearted thanks for accepting to speak at the Testimonial Dinner on February 23.

*No enclosure*

I am enclosing the invitation which will indicate the other speakers and officers, and I also want to thank you for accepting as Honorary Chairman. Since the printing of the invitation we have received many more responses as sponsors including Dr. Charles S. Johnson, president of Fisk, and Dr. Horace M. Bond, president of Lincoln University.

We have reserved the room for you at the Essex House. And may I again express our deep appreciation for your cooperation in changing your previous arrangements so that you can be with us. I am confident that we will all feel amply rewarded for our efforts.

Sincerely yours,

*Alicia B. Crawford*

Alicia B. Crawford  
Executive Secretary



DAY LETTER

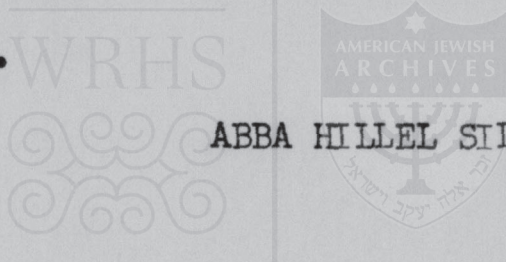
FEBRUARY 15, 1951

DR. E. FRANKLIN FRAZIER  
DU BOIS TESTIMONIAL COMMITTEE  
7 WEST 125 STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

IN VIEW OF THE UNEXPECTED AND EMBARRASSING DEVELOPMENTS I  
REGRET THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO ADDRESS THE  
DU BOIS TESTIMONIAL DINNER ON FEBRUARY 23. SHOULD YOU  
DECIDE TO POSTPONE THE MEETING UNTIL THE SITUATION IS  
CLARIFIED I SHALL BE VERY PLEASED TO ADDRESS IT THEN.

KINDEST REGARDS.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER





FROM: W. E. B. DU BOIS TESTIMONIAL SPONSORING COMMITTEE,  
7 West 125 Street, New York 27, N. Y., February 10, 1951

TO: The Officers, Sponsors and Invited Guests:

Dear Friends:

You were, doubtless, shocked to learn through the press of the indictment of Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois for his alleged violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. This indictment is especially shocking at this time when over two hundred fifty outstanding sponsors, including educators, scientists, writers, clergymen, social workers, businessmen, and civic leaders from all over the United States, have joined in tendering a tribute to Dr. Du Bois in recognition of his scholarly contributions and his devotion for more than fifty years to the struggle of the Negro to achieve equality in American life.

We have the word of Dr. Du Bois in answer to this charge that: "As Chairman of the Peace Information Center during its existence, I can state categorically that we were an entirely American organization whose sole objective was to secure peace and prevent a third World War."

In regard to this statement, it should be pointed out that the integrity and honesty of Dr. Du Bois have never been questioned, although many of us have not always agreed with him through the years on particular issues. You will be interested in the immediate reaction of two of our Testimonial Dinner sponsors upon learning of the indictment of Dr. Du Bois:

Dr. Charles S. Johnson, president of Fisk University: "I would find great difficulty in believing that Dr. Du Bois is a foreign agent. His history has been one of protest, but of loyalty. And I would interpret his work as being toward the making of our country a better place for us all to live in."

Mr. Roscoe Dungee, editor of the Black Dispatch, Oklahoma City: "The attempt to indict Dr. Du Bois is one of the most shameful acts committed by the government of the United States against the Negro people. I have absolutely no belief that Dr. Du Bois is an agent of a foreign government or is in any way connected with a subversive movement."

The initial reservations indicate great enthusiasm and interest in the Testimonial Dinner planned for Dr. Du Bois' 83rd Birthday Anniversary on February 23rd. We feel that this will be an historic event in that we shall honor a man about whom we all feel as stated by two of our leading sponsors:

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune: "I am extending to our great scholar and forthright fighter for democracy and freedom my fondest congratulations with a hope that many, many years will still be granted him to hold high the torch of free men in the world of peace and brotherhood."

Hon. J. Finley Wilson: "In honoring Dr. Du Bois you are honoring yourselves. He is the race's greatest scholar and has been a champion of human rights for a half century and has always been in the forefront when the battle was the hottest."

We hope that all of you who can will be present and, if you cannot be present, you will send greetings.

Sincerely yours,

*E. Franklin Frazier*

E. Franklin Frazier  
Chairman



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# WESTERN UNION

W. F. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

1201

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NL = Night Letter

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NEWYORK NY FEB 18 1951

DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER

ZIONIST ORG OF AMER 41 EAST 42 ST NYK

I WAS SHOCKED AND AMAZED TO READ IN THE WORLD TELEGRAM THAT YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR AS GUEST SPEAKER ON FEBRUARY 23 AT THE ESSEX HOUSE AT A BIRTHDAY DINNER HONORING DOCTOR W E B DUBOIS WHO HAS BEEN BRANDED FOR HIS UNAMERICAN AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES THROUGH HIS SO CALLED PEACE ORGANIZATION

MRS ROSE KLEBANOFF 502 PARK AVE NEW YORK 22 NY

107P



E. FRANKLIN FRAZIER   HOWARD UNIVERSITY   WASHINGTON 1, D. C.

February 19, 1951

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am writing you concerning your withdrawal as an honorary chairman and as a speaker at the testimonial dinner being tendered Dr. W. E. B. DuBois on the occasion of his 83rd birthday. After receiving your message and your telegram I gave instructions that your name be crossed out on all literature that was sent out thereafter concerning the testimonial dinner. Of course you realize that since your withdrawal did not come until after the printed invitations were sent out it was impossible for us to make changes in the literature which had already been sent. If by any chance there are any persons who think that you continue to participate in the dinner I want to assure you that we have acted in good faith. Moreover, if it is agreeable to you I shall read your telegram at the dinner in order that there shall be no mistake about the matter.

Sincerely yours,

*E. Franklin Frazier*

EFF:W

E. Franklin Frazier



DAY LETTER

FEBRUARY 21, 1951

DR. E. FRANKLIN FRAZIER  
HOWARD UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE NEW YORK PAPERS HAVE CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MY PARTICI-  
PATION IN THE TESTIMONIAL PROGRAM AND I HAVE BEEN HEARING  
FROM QUITE A NUMBER OF SOURCES. WOULD APPRECIATE IF PRIOR  
TO FRIDAY YOU MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MY WITHDRAWAL AND THE  
REASONS FOR IT. KINDEST REGARDS.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER





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RABBI ABBA H SILVER=

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PLEASE COMMENT FAILURE TO SPEAK DUBOIS BANQUET WIRE

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