NAACP a reluctant host to DuBois at reception

After a couple of false starts, the Los Angeles branch NAACP was all set to sponsor a 90th Birthday Reception for Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois this Saturday at the Wilfandela club.

The NAACP became a reluctant host to the ancient scholar after an hour's debate Monday night when several board members objected to the association sponsoring the reception, invitations to which were already in the mail.

Objecting on the grounds of "Communism", were Gilbert Lindsey, field deputy to County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, Attys. George L. Vaughan and Herman Smith, and organization treasurer Lorenzo V. Bowdoin and secretary Zelia Taylor. The vote of board members present was 10 to 8 in favor of presenting Dr. Du Bois, who was one of the founders of the NAACP.

The objection was raised in the debate that Chief of Police William Parker, and other critics are "just waiting for us to make a slip" like presenting Dr. Du Bois.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH TORN

Presentation of Dr. Du Bois in a lecture by the San Francisco NAACP last week, has torn the San Francisco branch asunder, the dissidents also said.

Previously, after polling the board by telephone and receiving a 17 to four vote to present Du Bois, the branch backed down without notice to the board and refused to sponsor him.

Then, according to board members, without bothering to consult with the board at all, administration with traffic relief supervisor Kenneth Hahn declared this week.

Hahn said plans and specifications for the project have been completed for months, right of way has been acquired, funds have been allocated, and that the need for the project is urgent.

Some $8,700,000 has been allocated to the project, which will complete five additional miles of the Harbor freeway, now nearing completion between 62nd and 124th streets,

live officials launched plans for Saturday's reception.

An outspoken advocate of what he calls "socialism... I seek a world where the ideals of communism will triumph... to each according to his need; from each according to his ability", Dr. Du Bois was quietly 'excommunicated' from the ranks of the Negro leadership some years ago.

The NAACP, whose Crisis magazine he formerly edited, had been particularly stern and forbidding of his name.

However, with the advent of the Independence of Ghana, Du Bois' name came into new prominence. He was one of those extended a personal invitation by Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah, who will visit the U.S. this year, to attend Ghana's Independence ceremonies.

The U.S. State Department refused to grant him a passport.

Thereafter, Ghana made preparations to honor Dr. Du Bois and earlier this month, he was entertained by the Ambassador of Ghana in Washington.

The announcement of the plans for the Washington entertainment signalled the end of the Cold War, and a 'Popular Front' sprang up of all sorts of hitherto unlikely elements for the New York celebration of Dr. Du Bois' birthday, at which a purse of $5000 was presented to the old radical to enable him to continue writing in peace.

Saturday's reception, to which 360 invitations were issued, will start at 8 p.m. The Wilfandela is at 3496 W. Adams blvd.

Dr. Du Bois speaks tonight (Friday) at 8 p.m. at First Unitarian church, 2956 W. 8th st., under auspices of the Religious Freedom Committee. Admission is $1.00.