Describing the value, richness, and vigor of Louis Burnham's life; describing the tragedy of his untimely death; noting how his legacy shall be preserved and his family looked after; and hoping that those gathered are moved to contribute towards that effort. See mums312-b150-i225 for later rendering.
Louis Burnham died at the age of 44 on February 12 from a heart attack which seized him while he was addressing an audience in New York on Negro History. May I call to your attention the enclosed details of a fund which is being set up to insure the upbringing and education of his four children. I had known Louis Burnham for twenty years. I met him when he was a young man working hard and tirelessly in the South to build up self-knowledge and political effectiveness among Negroes. He was the Southern Director of the Progressive Party Campaign of 1948. For several years he edited FREEDOM under the patronage of Paul Robeson and at the time of his death he was one of the editors of the NATIONAL GUARDIAN. We were all thrilled at the increasing power of his writing.

The fund for his children's future will be organized from contributions from the great number of people of limited means whose love and respect he had earned. But also the fund should have the generous support of those who are able to contribute much more.

I have been asked to send this letter to friends and acquaintances and I hope that you may be moved to give to this effort.

Very sincerely yours,

W. E. B. Du Bois