This paper examines how the dialectics of insurgency in the early Cold War shaped the making of the carceral state. During this period, Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois observed that the poor “stagger out of prison doors embittered, vengeful, hopeless, ruined.” Of this “army of the wronged,” as he called them the proportion of Black people was “frightful.” Dr. Du Bois penned these observations in the wake of his persecution for his anti-war campaign with the Stockholm-based Peace Information Center. In a clear case of red-baiting, Du Bois was labeled a “foreign agent” and the Soviet Union was named as the “foreign principal” by the prosecution. As a result, Du Bois in 1951 faced an extended trial in federal court and was forced to fight for his right to pursue radical solutions to the problems that the warfare state purported to solve. The paper argues that Du Bois’s urgent words offer a radical challenge to the racialization of carceral spaces in the era. His narrative dramatizes the deleterious effects of prisons and policing as modes of social control in the precise historical moment of the early Cold War. In his moment, he sought to help audiences interpret and resist the ideological legitimization of the expansion of the Cold War security state. My paper shows how this state form emerged in continuity with earlier racial regimes of capitalism on one hand, and offers a critical analysis of prisons and policing as key institutions of racial formation within the specific conjuncture of postwar U.S. globalism on the other.