

Toward Freedom

THE Republican high command is deliberately spreading racial and religious prejudices in the election campaign. In desperation over the sorry plight of their Dewey-Bricker hopefuls, they are revealing the truly vicious and sinister reaction which lies behind the Republican bid for national leadership.

It appears that the much heralded Brownell-Hannegan pledge to keep the campaign free of racial and religious prejudice meant not one whit more to the Republican propagandists than does the double-talk of candidate Dewey and the GOP platform.



They are waging an unprincipled and intense campaign to smear the CIO Political Action Committee by repeating in the press, day after day, that Chairman Sidney Hillman is "foreign-born" (as are millions of our nation's most patriotic citizens), and indicating in more than one subtle way that he is also a Jew.

They are trying to minimize the wholesome influence on Negro voters of the Ferdinand Smith-Hugh Mulzac national tour by repeated slurs on Mr. Smith's foreign birth.

Whereas in the South, fully consistent with their congressional tieup with the polltax

By Doxey Wilkerson

enemies of the Negro people, they are trying to drum up anti-Roosevelt sentiment among white voters by citing the Roosevelt championship of Negro democratic rights.

All this is in line with their frantic resort to the old red-baiting tactic that served Hitler so well (in an earlier day in the political history of our world), and even to the irresponsible charges that Stalin and Churchill are campaigning for Roosevelt.

IT IS not enough to denounce these sordid Republican tactics as mere "campaign excesses." They are far more sinister, and help define the real alternatives before the country in this national election.

Here illustrated is the true nature and chief motivation of organized racism. It is a technique of spreading confusion and disruption, through appeals to racial and religious prejudices, as a smoke-screen behind which to seize governmental power.

Few developments emphasize more clearly the critical and basic issue which the American people face in this campaign than this deliberate resort to racism on the part of Dewey backers. It is not the democratic rights of the foreign-born, the Jews, the Negroes, nor even the Communists, which they seek to destroy. Their prey is the whole

Racism—a GOP Campaign Weapon

American people.

In revealing contrast to this GOP demagoguery and confusion, the Roosevelt forces are conducting their campaign on the basis of the real issues before the country—victory, enduring peace, and postwar economic security. They point to the remarkable record of achievement of the Roosevelt Administration in promoting these goals, to their continuing sabotage by the Republicans, and ask the American voters to make an intelligent choice as to where their best interests lie.

NOT once have I seen an item of pro-Roosevelt propaganda which made use of the scurrilous tactic of stirring up racial and religious prejudices. Nor do I expect to, because it was Roosevelt who, more than any other statesman, introduced into Twentieth Century America the governmental policy of "no discrimination on grounds of race, religion or national origin."

It is in the unity of all Americans, regardless of nativity or color or faith, unity in support of the progressive goals which this people's war and the perspective of Teheran have now brought almost within our grasp, that Roosevelt's best chances of reelection lie. It is a measure of Dewey-Republican political bankruptcy and danger that they see their main hope of victory in the spread of disunity and racism.