

# Toward Freedom

## GOP Record Belies Platform Promises to Negro People

**T**HE callous demagoguery of the Republican platform is nowhere more flagrant than in their double-talking promises to Negro and other minority peoples. But the "deeds" of GOP leadership convincingly belie the "words" of their vote-beguiling platform.

They say: "We unreservedly condemn . . . appeals to racial or religious prejudice." But when white supremacists Bilbo and Eastland, et al. were spewing forth their anti-Semitic, anti-Negro filth during the recent FEPC debates, Republican Senators viewed the sordid spectacle with obvious satisfaction. There was not one GOP peep of condemnation.



They promise "an immediate congressional inquiry to ascertain the extent to which mistreatment, segregation and discrimination against Negroes who are in our armed forces are impairing morale and efficiency and the adoption of corrective legislation." But Republicans on the powerful House Rules Committee have joined with polltax Democrats to block a bi-partisan resolution introduced months ago for just this kind of inquiry.

Besides, who needs an "inquiry" to know that the brutality to which Negro soldiers are subjected in many camps and neighboring towns strikes at the very heart of military efficiency and civilian morale? This situation calls for action NOW, not a typical Dewey trick of evasion-by-investigation.

### By Doxey Wilkerson

**T**HEY pledge "the establishment by federal legislation of a permanent Fair Employment Practices Committee." But, until Rep. Marcantonio single-handedly forced a record vote, GOP Congressmen were joining with southern polltaxers to kill the \$500,000 appropriation for the present FEPC. As one Negro weekly commented recently: "A Roosevelt FEPC in hand is worth two dozen Republican promises of a permanent FEPC in the bush."

They declare: "The payment of any polltax should not be a condition of voting in federal elections, and we favor immediate submission of a constitutional amendment for its abolition." But when given an opportunity to abolish the polltax recently, GOP Senators helped southern polltaxers talk the measure to death by refusing to vote for cloture. And the evasive Governor Dewey, even when put directly on the spot by the NAACP telegram, was so solicitous of southern votes for his presidential nomination that he deliberately refused to speak out on the issue of cloture.

Incidentally, this constitutional amendment proposal for polltax abolition is one of the most cynical and deceitful provisions of the whole GOP platform. They know damned well that the polltax can be outlawed immediately through direct legislation, and they know further that it would take decades to get 36 states to ratify a constitutional amendment for this purpose.

**T**HEY claim to "favor legislation against lynching and pledge our sincere efforts in behalf of its early enactment." All of which, as NAACP's Walter White points out, means absolutely nothing when unaccompanied by a pledge to vote for cloture. When anti-lynching legislation was before the Senate, the GOPers were quite content to let their polltax allies talk it to death, refusing to intervene to stop one of the most disgraceful filibusters on record.

Finally, they say: "Our goal is to prevent hardship and poverty in America . . . by a system of social security on sound principles." Here is a general issue which is of utmost importance to Negro and all other minority groups. But the main Dewey-Republican meaning for "sound principles" is the old polltax formula of states rights. Thus they would leave the Negro and poor white masses of the South to the tender mercies of Rankin of Mississippi, George of Georgia and the rest of the Dixie demagogues.

This platform double-talk has led some to call the hard-boiled reactionaries who now control the Republican Party a group of "cynical but clever" politicians. In reality, however, they are quite naive. They have no conception of the political maturity of the 2,000,000 Negro voters they must confront at polls next November.

But they shall learn—through an avalanche of Negro votes for President Roosevelt and a win-the-war Congress with which he can work.