

Reaction Dies Hard

By Doxey Wilkerson

Never since the turn of the century has there been so much deliberate and aggressive effort to "keep the Negro in his place."

Why? Because never before have the forces working for Negro freedom been so strong and so definitely on the march.

Reaction always dies fighting. Indeed, it fights most viciously when on the brink of destruction. But under the impact of powerful forces of the people struggling for freedom, reaction does go down to defeat. That is the important thing to remember in appraising these modern Joshuas who now vainly command the sun of racial equality to cease rising.

Just look at a few of the recent developments on the anti-Negro front.

"The Man" Bilbo, whom Mississippi landlords keep in the Senate, now the "Mayor of Washington," tells a local delegation from the National Negro Congress that there is no hope for full Negro citizenship in America; that the Negro people might as well make up their minds to go on "back to Africa" where they came from.

Boistering the Smith Committee's current attack upon FEPC, Georgia's Senator Russell introduces an irrelevant appropriations



bill amendment with the assertion: "I hope it wipes out the Fair Employment Practices Committee."

The South Carolina House of Representatives adopts a resolution solemnly pledging "our lives and our sacred honor" to defend the system of "white supremacy as now prevailing in the South."

Kentucky's Representative May, through his House Military Affairs Committee, bluffs the Army away from its plan to distribute 85,000 copies of a pamphlet which records the simple scientific fact that Northern Negro recruits make intelligence test scores which are equal to or higher than those made by Southern whites.

What goes on here? Simply this: Those forces in our society who have vested interests in Negro discrimination have launched an all-out counter-attack against the "People's Revolution," which Vice-President Wallace says this war has set into motion.

They seek to destroy those liberating agencies of government which the requirements of national survival have brought into existence.

They seek even to suppress those scientific truths which expose the hollowness of their "white supremacy" ideology, which they now find it necessary to prop up by artificial means.

Moreover, in order to buttress their waning influence, the most reactionary sections of the poll-tax Democrats now make common political cause with the Republican

high command, merging their anti-Negro struggles with the powerful fascist-imperialist conspiracy which threatens our entire nation with destruction from within.

But these throwbacks to an earlier era of human oppression start their counter-attacks far too late in the day. The achievements of Negro democratic rights is now irrevocably on the agenda of history.

Set into motion by the democratic vistas which arise from this progressive war, the Negro people are struggling toward freedom with greater militancy than at any time in recent decades. They will continue to struggle, and they will win their fight—far sooner than many people think.

Recognizing that the extension of Negro democratic rights has become an imperative requirement for national survival, new and powerful allies among patriotic white Americans come forward to join hands with the Negro people in the common struggle for victory. Their numbers will multiply in the continuing struggle for that people's peace which is the promise of Tehran.

Let the poll tax Democrats and their Republican accomplices rise up on their hind legs and shout the rebel cry of defiance until they are blue in the face. They shall be trampled over by the on-rush of mankind toward freedom.

"The People's Revolution is on the march, and the devil and all his angels shall not prevail against it."