

Toward Freedom

REV. ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR., once characterized this election campaign as a "Civil War." His phrase is apt. The real issues and the nature of the forces in conflict are now much the same as during that armed political conflict of the 1860's; and again, the role of the Negro people may prove decisive.

The worst coalition of reactionaries ever seen in American politics is now united in the struggle to suppress that upsurge of democratic power which this people's war and the progressive policies of Roosevelt have brought to maturity. They know that this is their last chance to capture control of our government, by constitutional means, for a long, long time to come; and they are using every trick in Hitler's book to ward off the defeat which lies in store for them.

Just look at the line-up of forces: The Hearst-McCormick isolationists and imperialists; reactionary, anti-labor industrialists like Pew, Weir, Lamott duPont and Avery; rabid southern "white supremacy-ites" like "Cotton Ed" Smith and Eugene Talmadge; labor saboteurs of workingmen's interests like John L. Lewis and Matthew Woll; outright pro-fas-



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cists like Gerald L. K. Smith and Charles Coughlin; the seditionists on trial in Washington for conspiracy with our fascist enemies; anti-Sovieteers from the "right" and the "left"; alien-baiters, anti-Semites and Negro-haters; the Christian Front, the KKK, and practically every other organized expression of reaction in the country. These, together with the narrow partisans of the GOP, all find "unity" in support of the Dewey-Bricker bid for national leadership.

ARRAYED against them are the forces of the people: Almost the entire labor movement, far greater in numbers and more effectively organized for political action than ever before; great democratic captains of industry, like Henry J. Kaiser; small businessmen and farmers; enlightened southerners like Sen. Pepper; the bulk of our fighting men and women in uniform; civic, professional, business, religious, fraternal and other people's groups of every kind; the Communists; and a whole new series of "citizen's nonpartisan committees" which have sprung into being to give organized political expression to the otherwise inarticulate masses of democratic Americans.

A Bloodless 'Civil War'

These, together with true friends of democracy in all political parties, are also finding a new unity in support of the election of Roosevelt and Truman.

Here is sharp conflict between two ways of life; but, very significantly, it is **not class conflict**. The small but powerful forces of capitalistic reaction and their hirelings, who constitute the spearhead of the Dewey-Bricker candidacies, now find themselves confronted by almost the whole American people, including the bulk of the capitalists who, in alliance with labor and other progressive forces, can and will prove decisive.

AMONG the parallels between this election campaign and the Civil War, few are more striking than the dependence of the national welfare upon the freedom-struggles of the Negro people.

The victory of the democratic forces around Roosevelt is also largely dependent upon the role of the Negro people. Some three million potential Negro voters can easily hold the balance of power in tomorrow's elections; and the fact that their continuing struggle for freedom is now again linked up with the broader struggles of the masses of Americans—for victory, enduring peace and security—that fact is of the utmost importance to the future of our country and our world.