

Stevenson Invites Election Defeat

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

SIGNS ARE multiplying to indicate that the American people are in a mood to administer a resounding defeat to the Republican party in the November elections. The latest expression of this trend was the upset in Maine, with the Democrats electing their first governor in 20 years and with the Republican vote generally suffering a steep decline of some 12 percent.



The basic reasons for this mass turn against the Republican Administration are three-fold: a) the harmful effects of the growing industrial depression and the Eisenhower concern for the profits of big business at the expense of the workers and farmers, b) the dangerous growth of McCarthy fascism, especially in the leadership of the Republican Party, and c) the growing alarm at the warlike policies of the Eisenhower-Dulles-Knowl-and sabre-rattlers.

In other words, the American people in their own tempo and manner, are also thinking in the basic terms of the peoples in other capitalist countries — that is, they are against war and fascism, and they dread another great economic crisis.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY leadership, tied to Big Business, is, however, following a political line which, if anything can save the Republicans in November, this might do it. That is, they are trying to make the main issue in the coming elections an attack upon the foreign policy of the Eisenhower Administration, in the sense that national armaments are being neglected and that dealings with the USSR and China have been too

soft. In other words, they want to step up the arms production program and to adopt a more aggressive foreign policy. This was the sense of the recent national speech of Adlai Stevenson, and it is the line being stressed by many other prominent Democrats.

Especially outstanding labor leaders — presidents Meany and Reuther of the AFL and CIO respectively — have vigorously espoused this false approach to the elections. Thus, we have the dangerous spectacle of leaders who are supposed to represent the interests of organized labor and the people, criticizing Eisenhower and Company from the right in the matter of foreign policy. They are more bellicose in their advocacy of more armaments and in their denunciations of all proposals for peaceful co-existence between the United States and the Soviet Union than are the direct representatives of Wall Street monopoly capital themselves.

THIS ELECTION LINE of the Democratic leaders and labor bureaucrats constitutes a profound contradiction to the sentiments and interests of the workers, Negro people, working farmers, and the other democratic elements in this country. These masses do not want more of the arms race, redbaiting, Soviet-hating, and sabre-rattling, as the Stevensons, Douglass, Humphreys, Reuthers, and Meaneys appear to think, but less of all this. They want guarantees of peace; they want to develop peaceful co-existence with the Socialist countries; they want to put a curb upon the dangerous fascist activities in this country (of which Senator Humphrey's championing of the Communist Control Act was a deadly example), and they want definite steps taken by the Government to protect them from the increasing privations

of the economic crisis.

From every aspect the more-arms-more-belligerency line of the Democratic heads and labor leaders is highly dangerous and should be opposed by workers who vote Democrat. Its immediate menace is to help the Republicans, who are the chief standard bearers of reaction, to escape a resounding defeat in the approaching elections.

For if the American people ever get the idea, and they well may, that the Democratic Party stands for a more warlike policy while the Republican Party is fighting for world peace, then Democratic election prospects will hit the toboggan.

The Republicans, backed into a corner on other issues, know the value of the peace question as a vote-getter, and they are trying to better their election prospects by boosting themselves as the Party of peace and condemning the Democrats as the war party. With their clamor for more "defense" appropriations and for a get-tougher-with-Russia line, the Democratic leaders are walking right into the trap now set for them by the Republicans.

THIS SITUATION presents an important task for the Communists and other progressive forces in the elections. It is to keep to the fore amongst the electorate the struggle for peace, together with the fight against McCarthyism, and to protect the workers against the economic crisis, and to develop pressure for these policies in the elections. It is the height of folly to conclude that what the American people want is more anti-Communist hysteria, more munitions production, and more warlike foreign policies. This is grist for the mills of the McCarthyite warmongers. It is the way to disaster, both in the short and the long run. The workers must be warned and organized against it.