

Toward Freedom

THE coming destruction of the most fundamental forms of jimcrowism, discrimination in employment, is heralded today by Gov. Dewey's signing of the Ives-Quinn bill. But this historic people's victory is more the beginning than the end of a struggle. Much hard work lies ahead before fair employment practice is firmly established as a normal and accepted pattern of our society, either in New York or in America at large.



This new anti-discrimination law must overcome many obstacles before racial and religious bars to employment are completely uprooted from the economic life of New York. Die-hard reactionaries, who lost the legislative battle, will almost surely fight the law in the courts. They will also try in every way to obstruct its efficient operation.

Let us not rest on our laurels. When the law goes into effect next July, the broad progressive coalition which obtained its passage will have to keep alert and fighting to overcome the "legal" attacks and deliberate sabotage it is sure to face.

Continued struggle alone can actually

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achieve the democratic goal which enactment of the Ives-Quinn bill has brought almost within the grasp of New York.

EVEN more immediately, the struggle for national FEPC legislation must now be made the focal point of the growing movement to uproot jimcrowism from the employment structure of America. Now is the time—not only because of the impetus given by the New York victory, nor solely because of the imminence of hearing on the Senate FEPC bill; but mainly because failure to carry the fight through the success now would set the whole struggle back many months, and perhaps years.

On the other hand, passage of permanent national FEPC legislation now would tremendously strengthen the movement for similar state legislation throughout America. Let every friend of fair employment practice get quickly into action—NOW. Let there be so magnificent a demonstration of people's unity in support of this progressive measure that opposition from the Taft-Republicans and their polltax allies will be completely overwhelmed.

At the same time, the struggle for fair em-

Now Is the Time to Kill Job Jimcrow

ployment practice legislation must be extended and strengthened in the other states. The fight is already well advanced in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, California and over a dozen other northern and western states. In all of them it will encounter strong opposition, chiefly from reactionary circles of big business.

But, as New York has so admirably demonstrated, such opposition can be defeated—if the mass organizations of the people get into motion to demand a democratic employment policy consistent with the desire of the vast majority of our citizens.

THIS growing fight for national and state fair employment practice legislation reflects the upsurge of a vital democratic movement which is destined to wipe the main features of jimcrowism off the face of America during the next ten years. It gathers its major strength from the broad coalition of progressive forces which this people's war has united and brought to maturity, and it moves ahead as an integral part of the world struggle to destroy fascist reaction and build enduring peace and security.

There never was a more favorable time to strike the death-blow to job discrimination. Let us throw everything we have into the fight.