

# Wendell Willkie at the Political Crossroads

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

What will Mr. Willkie do politically, after the defeat of his attempt to secure the Republican Party's nomination for President and to win that party's endorsement of his policies? This is a vital question. For in an election which popular polls indicate may be a close one, the matter of what Mr. Willkie advises his large mass following to do will be of great, if not, decisive, importance.

There can be no doubt but that Mr. Willkie's long and ardent campaign to transform the Republican Party into a progressive, win-the-war, win-the-peace force has suffered irreparable shipwreck. The combined Dewey-Hoover reactionaries and McCormick pro-fascists have defeated Mr. Willkie on every front in the Republican Party. They have won a solid control of the party, hand-picked the candidates and dictated its platform. They steam-rollered Willkie in the primary elections, rejected his program, and, adding insult to injury, they even refused to invite him, although he was still the titular head of the party, to speak at the Chicago convention.

The obvious conclusion to be drawn from all this is that if Mr. Willkie wishes actually to achieve the war and peace policies he has been so actively championing, he now has no alternative left but to throw his support to the Roosevelt camp. Clearly Mr. Willkie, in order to play a progressive role, must rise above the partisan and other considerations that have so far directed his hopes to the Republican Party, must join up his forces with the rest of the progressive elements in the country and help defeat the reactionary Dewey-Bricker ticket and to re-elect President Roosevelt.

Mr. Willkie should realize that it would be utter folly to expect Dewey to put into effect the policies which he, Willkie, advocates. The Dewey-Bricker ticket represents organized reaction in the United States. It runs counter to the whole program adopted at Teheran; it is a threat to American democracy; its election would be a deadly menace to the whole prospect of victory in the war and the elaboration of an enduring and livable peace. To give election support to this reactionary ticket in the hope that Mr. Dewey, if elected President, would utilize what Mr. Willkie calls his "historic opportunity" to put the Teheran program into effect, would be to indulge in day dreams and to chase rainbows.

## A CLEAR STAND URGENT

The attitude to be assumed toward the Dewey-Bricker ticket, therefore, must not be one of endorsement, or half-endorsement, or equivocation, or hopeful waiting, but open and vigorous opposition. Dewey and Bricker, and the whole gang of reactionaries and defeatists who stand behind them, must be administered a crushing defeat at the polls in November. This iron logic of the present political situation must be accepted by Mr. Willkie and his followers, unless they are to find themselves fighting against the very policies they have been promulgating.

During the past couple of years Mr. Willkie, despite many waverings and much narrow partisan-



ship, has done a service to our nation at war. He has, in the main, outlined policies leading toward winning the war and the peace; especially he has delivered telling attacks against the dangerous, fascist-minded McCormick gang, now closely allied with Dewey.

But Mr. Willkie can follow up this hitherto constructive work now only by a policy of clear-cut opposition to the Dewey-Bricker combination. Any tendency to support this ticket or to temporize with it could only transform Mr. Willkie into a dangerous ally of reaction. For to attempt to lead the democratic forces of our country into the Republican election camp, or to keep them out of the Roosevelt camp, would be doing the work of reaction, no matter how much the policy were to be buttered over with "constructive" criticism and illusory hopes regarding Mr. Dewey.

What will Mr. Willkie do? He now faces the greatest political decision of his career. Will he stand out boldly against the reactionary Dewey-Bricker line-up and join his efforts with the democratic camp for the re-election of Roosevelt? So far, his answer has been rather dubious. His congratulatory telegram to Dewey would seem an evil omen. Mr. Willkie's followers should help him make up his mind in the correct direction. Like B. le Crum and Russell Davenport, prominent Willkie leaders, they should come out definitely for Roosevelt. Mr. Willkie should break completely with the Republican ticket, or his followers should break with him.

In this crucial election all progressive, democratic forces, whether Democratic, Republican or Independent, should, in a spirit of non-partisanship, make a common stand against reaction, represented by Dewey and Bricker, and see to it that the present administration is continued in office. This is the only way in which they can realize their win-the-war, win-the-peace policies.

## West Longshoremens In Mass Health Test

SAN FRANCISCO, July 6 (FP).—Largest labor-sponsored mass health test of industrial workers ever held began yesterday when equipment was set up in the longshoremens' hiring hall of the CIO International Longshoremens and Warehousemens' Union to examine 20,000 waterfront workers for tuberculosis and venereal diseases.

Tests are sponsored by the Northern California Union Health Committee and are taken on company time with the approval of the Pacific Coast Maritime Industry Board. Results are confidential and examination are voluntary.

## Collins Leaves Election Race

Charles A. Collins announced yesterday he would not enter the race for the State Legislature from the 12th Assembly District in New York County.

Mr. Collins stated that since the program of some candidates already running are identical with his own, namely, full support of President Roosevelt, he felt the cause of unity would be served best by his withdrawal.