

The Nixon Threat

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

IT IS NO POLITICAL secret that President Eisenhower is systematically trying to prepare the ground to make the reactionary Richard M. Nixon his

eventual successor in the White House. During his career Mr. Eisenhower has committed many disservices to the American people, but this cultivation of Nixon to be the future head of this nation is one of the worst and most inexcusable actions.

Nixon to be the future head of extreme reactionaries in the United States. This is a matter of common knowledge. His political cronies and backers are among the most consciously fascist elements. His political line is hardly to be distinguished, in its essence, from that of Senator McCarthy. During the most acute phases of the cold war, he was in the forefront of the sabre-rattlers and warmongers who were trying to provoke an atomic world war. Now, of course, in character, he is busy sabotaging the peace work of the Big Four Geneva Conference. One needs little political understanding to realize what a disaster it would be to the American people if this figure were to become President.

Nevertheless, it has been with this general idea in mind that Mr. Eisenhower has taken one step after another to boost Nixon's prestige and to advance



his political position, with the Presidency as the eventual objective. Thus, the President personally saved Nixon politically in the smelly affair of his private slush-fund. He was also the individually responsible for inflicting Nixon upon the American people in his nomination and election as vice-president. This was a concession to the extreme right wing of the Republican Party.

DURING THE COURSE of his whole administration the President has lost no occasion to promote Nixon's presidential aspirations and chances, by creating favorable publicity around him, by sending him off to the Far East, Latin America and elsewhere on spectacular political junkets, and by various other means. And now Eisenhower's grapevine spokesmen have let it be known that if Eisenhower is to run again in 1956 it is a must that Nixon be put on the ticket with him.

In the nature of the post of vice-president the man holding it has a strong possibility of becoming President through inheriting the high office. During the past half century alone three vice-presidents—Theodore Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge, and Harry S. Truman — became President through the deaths of the incumbents—William McKinley, W. G. Harding, and F. D. Roosevelt. Putting Nixon in the office of vice-president, "within a heartbeat of the Presidency," constitutes a serious threat that he might become President. What

joy that would bring to the camp of extreme reaction and fascism in this country — and what misgivings to every democratic element in this country.

But Mr. Nixon's Presidency hopes do not depend solely upon any such fatal contingency. Eisenhower's plan is to so build him up politically that, if need be, he can eventually secure the Republican Presidential nomination on his own score.

IN THE VITAL national elections of next year the matter of the menace of the Nixon candidacy should be made a serious issue. The great masses of the American people, peace-loving and democratic, have nothing in common with the sabre-rattling, pro-fascist Nixon. They should, therefore, let President Eisenhower know in unmistakable terms that they are not going to permit him, acting like a dictator, to force Nixon upon the American people as the vice-president, with all the implications regarding inheriting the Presidency that this strategic position implies.

There are plenty of reasons why the American people, and especially the working class, should defeat the Eisenhower Republican ticket in the 1956 elections, but even if there were not this multitude of reasons, the President's impermissible cultivation of the unspeakable Nixon would be a sufficient cause why that ticket should, and must be, categorically rejected by a great majority of the voters.