

Toward Freedom

HOWARD FAST'S Freedom Road, gripping novel of the Reconstruction period, teaches a lesson which is of utmost importance today: the danger to the Negro people and the entire nation of a close political tie-up between the southern Bourbons who run the South and the powerful reactionary sections of monopoly capital in the North.

The period 1868 to 1876 witnessed the emergence of the first and only democratic people's governments in the southern states, based upon the new-found unity of poor whites and freedmen, and backed up by a progressive and courageous Congress. Through a notable succession of reform measures—in suffrage, governmental structure, education, women's rights, agricultural reform and land tenure—democracy moved swiftly ahead for the South and the nation as a whole. During this period four million Negro people were rapidly being transformed from illiterate slaves to dignified and capable citizens of a



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free society which their efforts did most to build.

IT WAS then that the newly-elected Republican President Hayes "honored" his election campaign agreement with the leaders of the old Confederacy whom Lincoln had waged war to defeat for the salvation of the nation. He withdrew federal troops from the South, thereby restoring Bourbon control-through-violence and destroying all the democratic gains which the forces around Lincoln had won. The poor whites and Negroes were ruthlessly suppressed; an era of semi-feudalism ensued, and the national Congress was saddled with a long line of reactionary mountebanks whose political crimes against America are among the most sordid in democratic history.

The period 1932 to 1944 witnessed the emergence of the most progressive national government our nation has experienced since the days of Reconstruction, based upon the alliance of the Negro people, organized labor, small farmers and progressive sections of

We'll Have No New President Hayes

capital. Through a notable succession of progressive measures, the principle of government in the interest of the common man has again been established in America, and the basis laid for its extension throughout the world. During this period, 14,000,000 Negro people have moved toward their historic goal of freedom more rapidly than at any time during the past seven decades.

AT THIS critical moment in the history of our embattled nation, another Republican presidential aspirant seeks a passport to the White House through alliance with precisely the same type of reactionary southern Bourbons who helped put Hayes in position to betray the Negro people and the nation. In the midst of shameless double-talk about democratic rights for the Negro people, he and his fellow-partisans repeatedly thrust the dagger which would quickly end the progressive trend of the past twelve years and bring disaster to America and the new world which she is now in process of helping to build.

Thomas E. Dewey has all of the qualifications of a modern President Hayes, with but one exception—he cannot get elected.