

Why It's Time for a Change

To those who like their campaigns without padding or pussyfooting, Gov. Dewey's speech at Charleston last night is respectfully commended. If not the best, it was at least one of the best he has made yet.

▼ The distance runner with the best chance to break the tape is the man who starts well but not too fast, who always has enough in reserve to improve his own pace and to set it for his competitor.

For the first time in his several Presidential marathons, Mr. Roosevelt is having the pace set for him, one that already has him puffing slightly as he essays to explain and to defend. From a careful, well-planned start, gaited to a deceptive deliberation, Gov. Dewey is letting out notches of speed at a rate that promises something spectacular when he gets into the stretch. To a tiring opponent whose reserves have already been pretty well expended by repetitive use, the prospect of the final sprint can hardly be attractive. Self-limited by his two acceptance speeches to campaign outgivings which would merely "correct misrepresentations" by his opposition, Mr. Roosevelt has been early forced to shift his strategy. At Philadelphia and again at Washington, he undertook to regain the lead with offensives of his own, and both times has had it taken away from him by a faster-footed competitor.

The President is "running on his record" and on arguments which served him well in 1932 but which are ancient and threadbare now. Gov. Dewey is also running on the Roosevelt record or, rather, stamping on it, but he has a great deal more than merely criticism to offer. His eyes are on the future, as is traditional with vigorous youth, where those of the worn-out New Deal are on the past.

In his Charleston address, the New York Governor laid out the pattern of his campaign more fully and plainly than at any of his previous appearances. Its theme is set out in his frequently repeated expression: "Why it's time for a change," and everything he says, whether on his own constructive program, on the failures of Rooseveltism or in reply to his opponent's stumbling broadsides, is accurately focused to that theme's service. Last night's effort was so good a recapitulation of it, as so far developed, as to make worth while an attempt at even briefer summary.

Gov. Dewey believes there should be a change in the national administration because:

1—By the repeated admissions of its own official spokesmen, the present one has botched the home-front prosecution of the war effort, after having failed in the first place adequately to prepare. What we have accomplished has not been because of but in spite of New Deal leadership.

2—Competent management, particularly in

the industrial and administrative domestic fields, such as Gov. Dewey offers and has demonstrated his capacity to give, will shorten the war. There will be no change in the expert personnel directing the actual fighting.

3—A specific, clean-cut and detailed post-war foreign policy, such as Mr. Dewey has enunciated, will better serve our own interests, those of our Allies and of the world at large than the secrecy and oft-changing generalities which characterize the President's policy, if he has one.

4—The administration has only its ancient and discredited program of tax, borrow and boondoggle to offer in support of postwar prosperity at home. The President believes and has so declared that there are no new horizons here. The Republicans offer a sound and proven program of expansion, opportunity and jobs.

5—By its own official admission, the administration looks forward to the ownership and operation of "most of the productive plants in the United States." As a start on its corporate state, it already owns or operates a fifth of them and is competing with private business with a much larger fraction. The so-far government corporations and credit agencies have net assets of \$27,000,000,000, according to Democratic sources.

6—This collectivist policy and its attendant upset of the established order offer a golden opportunity to the Communists and radical labor elements with which, in spite of his "soft disclaimers," Mr. Roosevelt has struck hands in the interests of his re-election. These and their collaterals are the reasons for the fourth-term support being given by the Hillman-Browder coalition.

7—Wittingly or otherwise, yeoman service has already been rendered the program by the failure of the President's wartime Office of Production Management under the direction of his appointee as cochairman, Sidney Hillman. Of this Gov. Dewey recalled that Sen. Harry Truman, now New Deal nominee for Vice-President, said: "If Mr. Hillman cannot or will not protect the interests of the United States, I am in favor of replacing him with someone who will."

8—The late smashup of the War Production Board, O.P.M.'s successor, is but one of the many examples which have become public of continuous internal wars in the administration. Notwithstanding that, by Presidential order, high New Dealers and other officials are required to keep their mutual quarrels from the public, enough of them have been irrepressible as amply to explain the bungling inefficiency of the domestic war effort's direction from Washington.

There will be many other counts in the true bill which Prosecutor Dewey is bringing against the administration. He is only just getting up steam.