

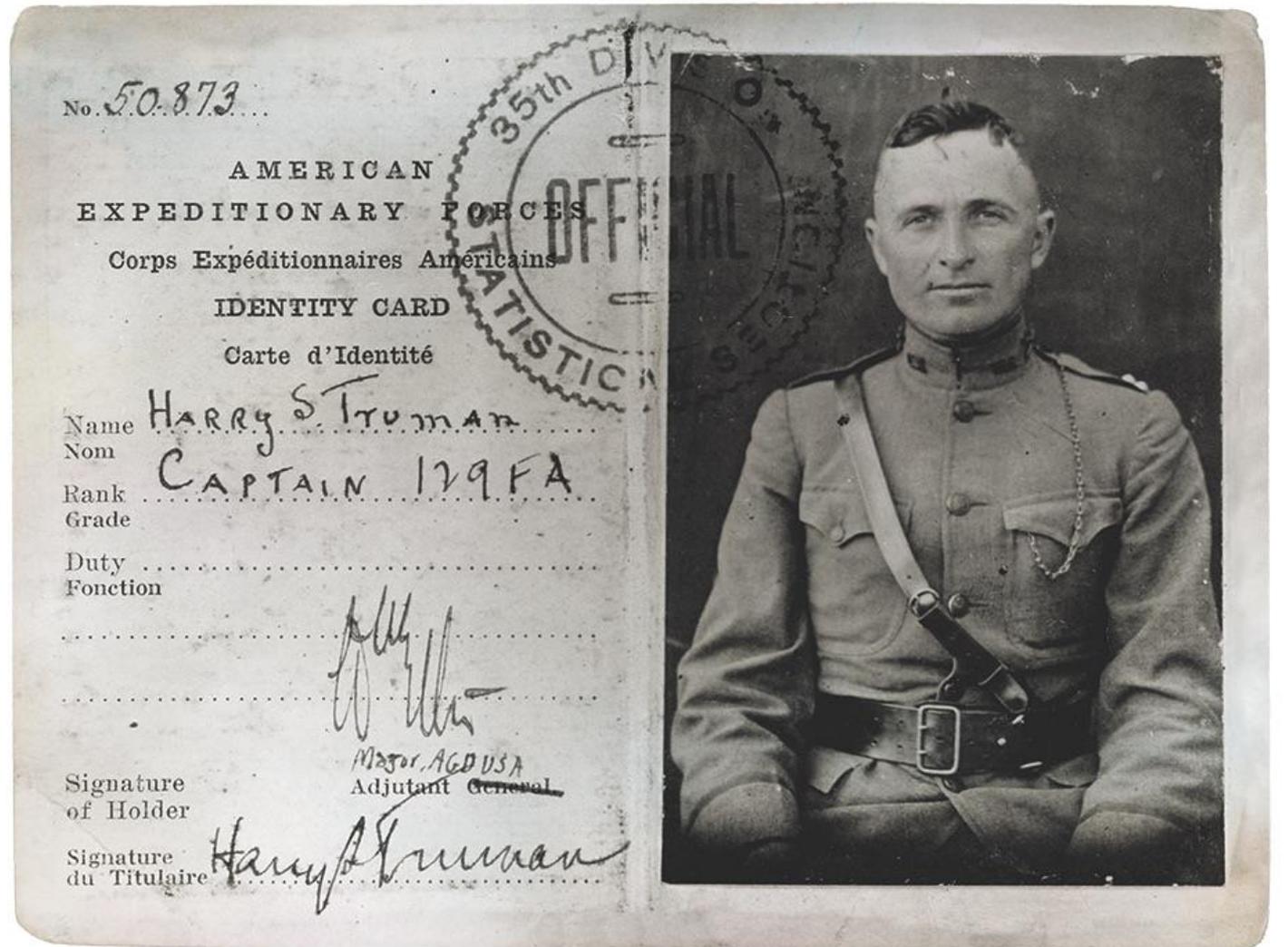


# Truman Domestic

1945-1953

# Harry S. Truman

-Small town  
Missouri  
-WWI  
artillery  
Captain in  
the Battle of  
the Argonne



100%

90

80

70

60

50

40

30

20

1945

1946

1947

1948

1949

1950

1951

1952

'53

Establishes the Truman Doctrine  
for aid to other nations

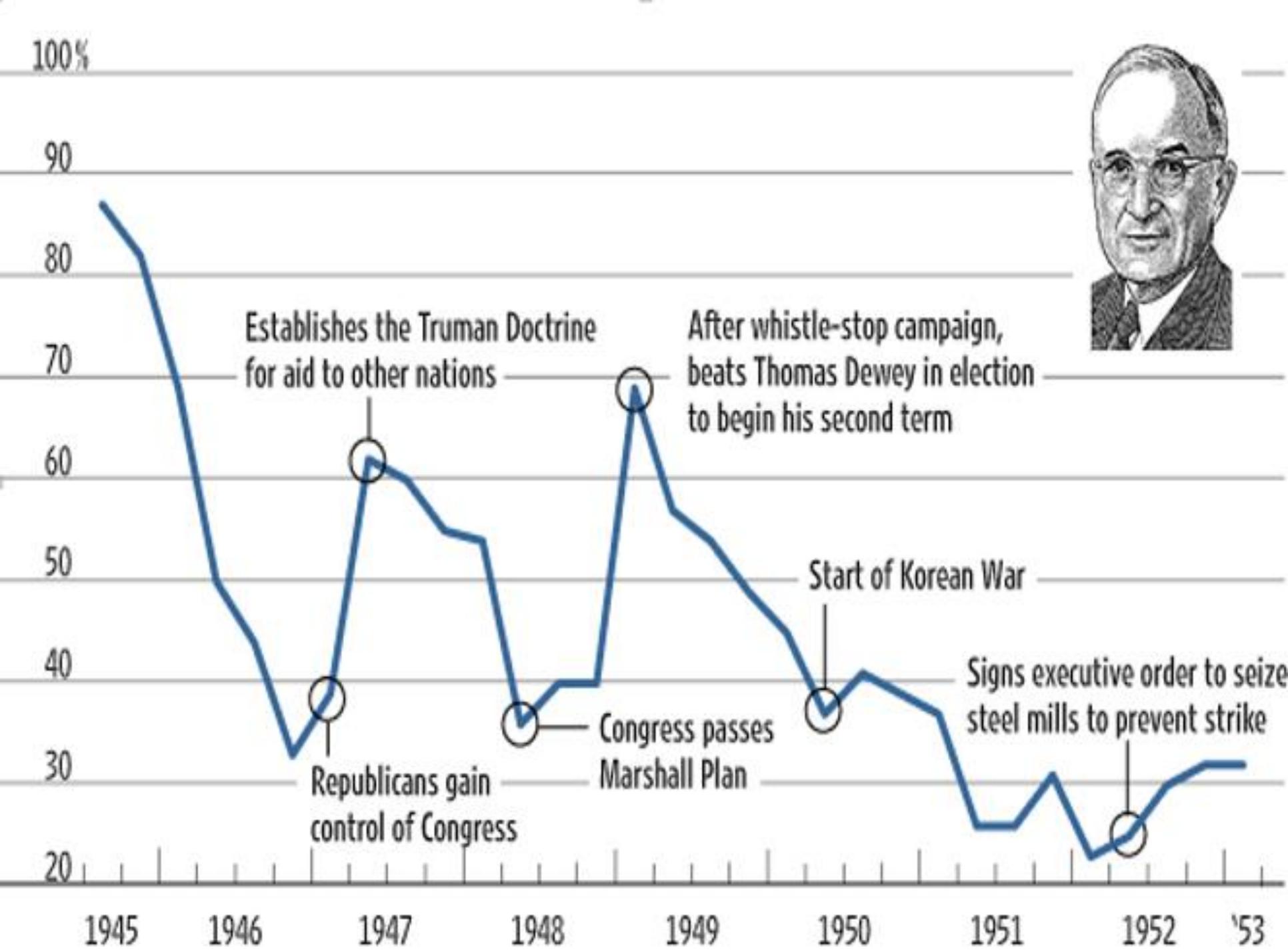
After whistle-stop campaign,  
beats Thomas Dewey in election  
to begin his second term

Republicans gain  
control of Congress

Congress passes  
Marshall Plan

Start of Korean War

Signs executive order to seize  
steel mills to prevent strike



# Peacetime Economy

- Truman's 1<sup>st</sup> priority was “**Reconversion**” - social and economic transition from wartime to consumer production
- Americans wanted access to goods unavailable during the war
- Govt eased controls over economy in July 1946 → prices increased 25%  
-Caused inflation

Wages did not keep pace with prices → labor unrest



*It's a promise!*

JIM'S going away tomorrow . . . and there will be long, lonely days before he comes back.

But that little home sketched there in the sand is a symbol of faith and hope and courage. It's a promise, too. A promise of gloriously happy days to come . . . when Victory is won.

Victory Homes of tomorrow will make up in part at least for all the sacrifices of today . . . and that's our promise!

They will have better living built in . . . electrical living with new comforts, new conveniences, new economies to make every day an adventure in happiness.

Plan for your Victory Home now . . . the one sure way is to buy War Bonds. Every Bond you buy is an investment in your future happiness and security . . . every dollar you put into Bonds helps bring our boys back sooner—and safer. Buy another Bond today.

The General Electric Consumers Institution at Bridgeport, Conn., is devoted to research on wartime home problems such as Nutrition • Food Preparation • Food Preservation • Appliance Care • Appliance Repair • Laundering • Home Heating and Air Conditioning. Helpful booklets are available from your G-E Appliance Dealer, or General Electric Consumers Institution, Dept. 15-5.

APPLIANCE AND MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT, BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

**GENERAL ELECTRIC**

There is an Electric Blank and the Snow every Blanket, Thermostats, Automatic washings over C. E. S. On Blanket night Blankets to the "Star of China" over N. R. C. the newspapers for times, states.

# 1946: Labor Unrest

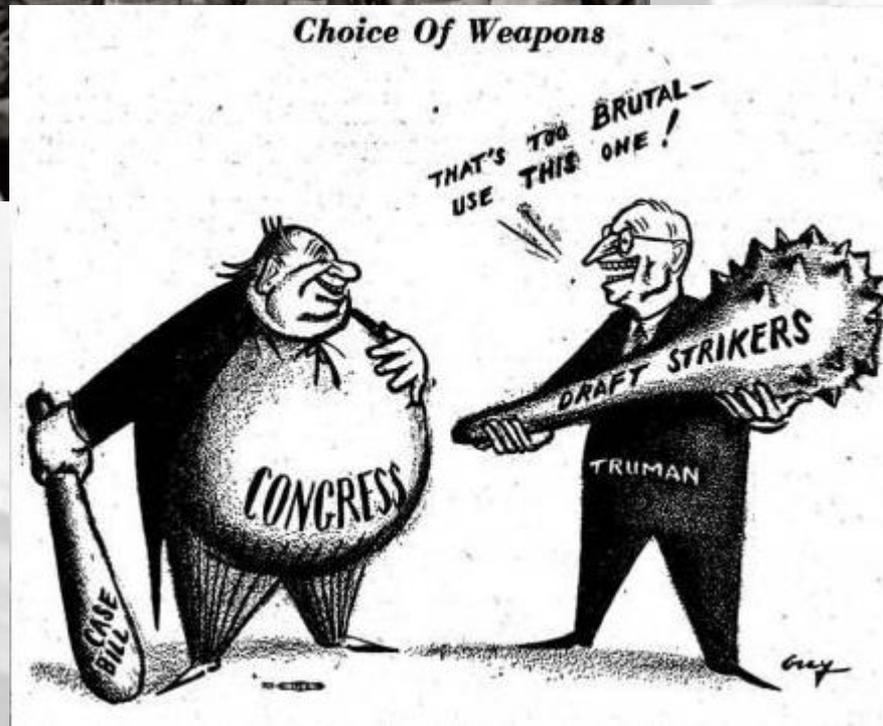
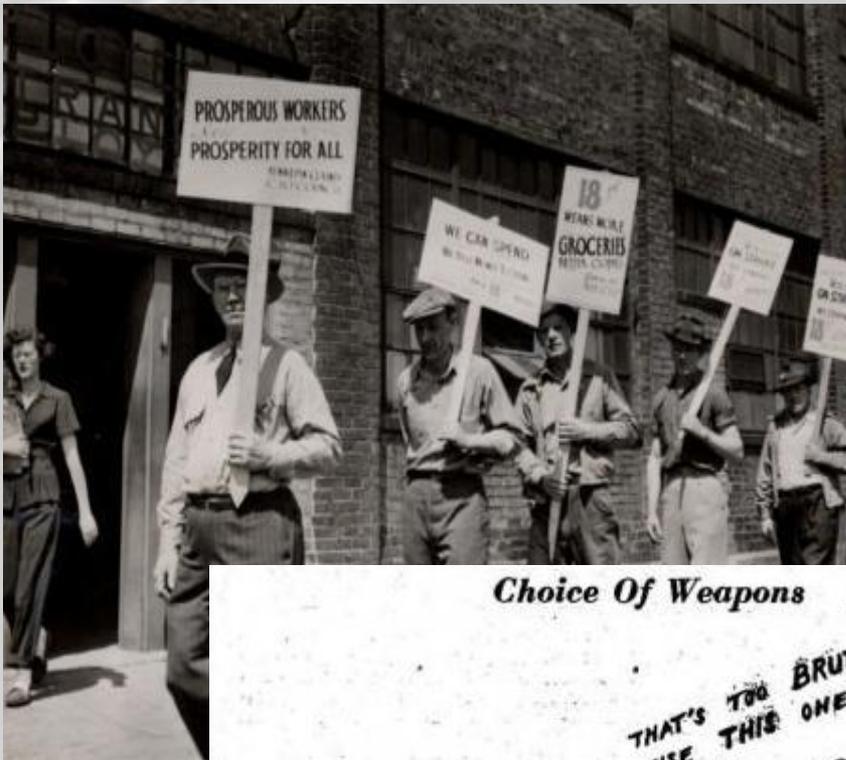
Reasons:

- Inflation
- Low wages

1946: 4.6m workers strike

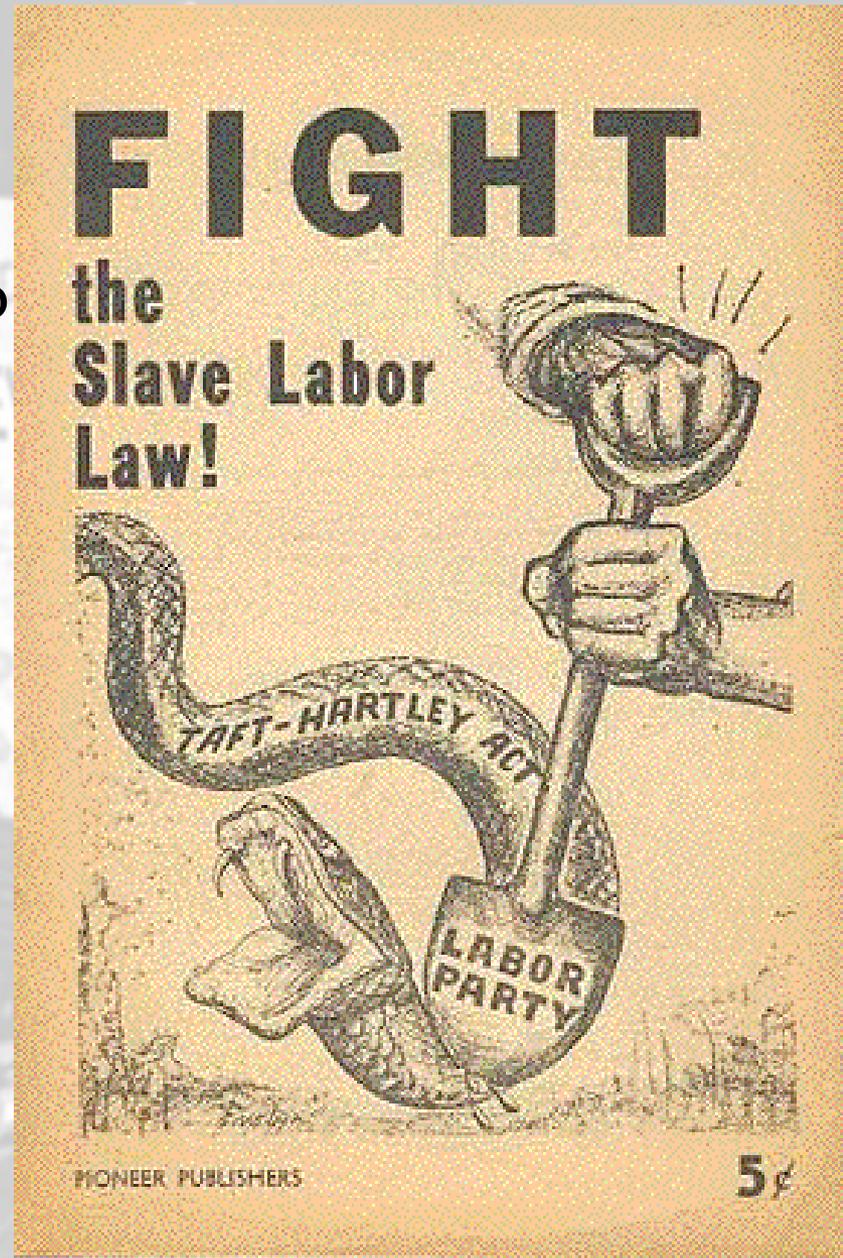
- Automobile, steel, electrical, coal
- RR Strike:

- Spring of 1946
- Lasted 1 mo. nationwide
- All freight & passenger lines shut down
- Truman issued an executive order putting the RR industry under the control of the army and threatened to draft the striking workers into the Korean War



# 1947: Taft-Hartley Act

- Limited power of unions after the war
- Outlawed “Closed Shop” workplaces (all-union membership required)
- Permits states to pass “right to work laws” - allowed states to prohibit union shops
- President could call for an 80-day “cooling-off” period before a strike
  - Could also issue an injunction against work-stoppage that endangered national safety or health
- Truman vetoes but Congress overrides → becomes law



# Truman's "Fair Deal"

Continuation of liberal practices of FDR's New Deal

- 21-point program:
    - Expand Social Security benefits, raise min. wage, Fair Employment Practices Act, environment & public works projects, government supported scientific research, nationalized atomic energy, national health insurance
- 1946: midterm elections → Republicans control both houses of Congress and defeat the Fair Deal

# Truman on Civil Rights

First president to address the NAACP and form a Civil Rights Commission (Led by A. Philip Randolph) to:

- Support anti-lynching laws
- Abolish poll tax as voting requirement
- Establish a permanent board to prevent discriminatory hiring practices in civil service positions
- Banned discrimination in hiring federal employees (July 1948)
- Integrated the armed forces in 1948 through Exec. Order 9980

**EXTRA - By Executive Order**  
**PRESIDENT TRUMAN WIPES OUT SEGREGATION IN ARMED FORCES**

**2nd Order Sets Up FEPC In All Government Jobs**

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VOL. XLIV, No. 26 CHICAGO, ILL., SATURDAY, JULY 31, 1948 \*\*\* 10¢ PER COPY \*\*\*

**Under 'States' Rights'**  
**Posse, Bent On Lynching, Searches Woods For Prey**

**SAVE This PAPER It Marks HISTORY**

**Come Back And Do A Job Is**

**Rumor Negroes Would Resist**

# “Dixiecrats” on the Rise

- Southern, white Democrats who opposed Truman’s civil rights attempts, especially integrating the military
- Led by **Strom Thurmond**, governor and later senator from SC



# The Election of 1948



## Candidates:

Harry Truman (Democrat)



Thomas Dewey (Republican, NY)  
-Ran in 1944, gained ground on FDR, expected to win the presidency

Strom Thurmond ("Dixiecrat", SC)  
-Longest filibuster in U.S. History



Henry Wallace (Progressive)  
-Friend of the Communist Party, believed that we needed socialized medicine, friendly relations with USSR, etc.

## Early polls:

- Dewey 44%, Truman 31%,  
Thurmond 16%, Wallace 9%

## Truman's "Whistle-stop" campaign:

- Attacks Republican Congress
  - "Do-nothing"
  - Farm policy
- "Give em hell, Harry!"

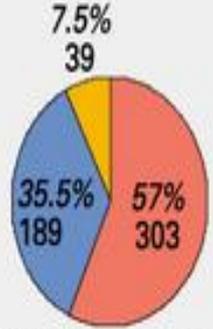
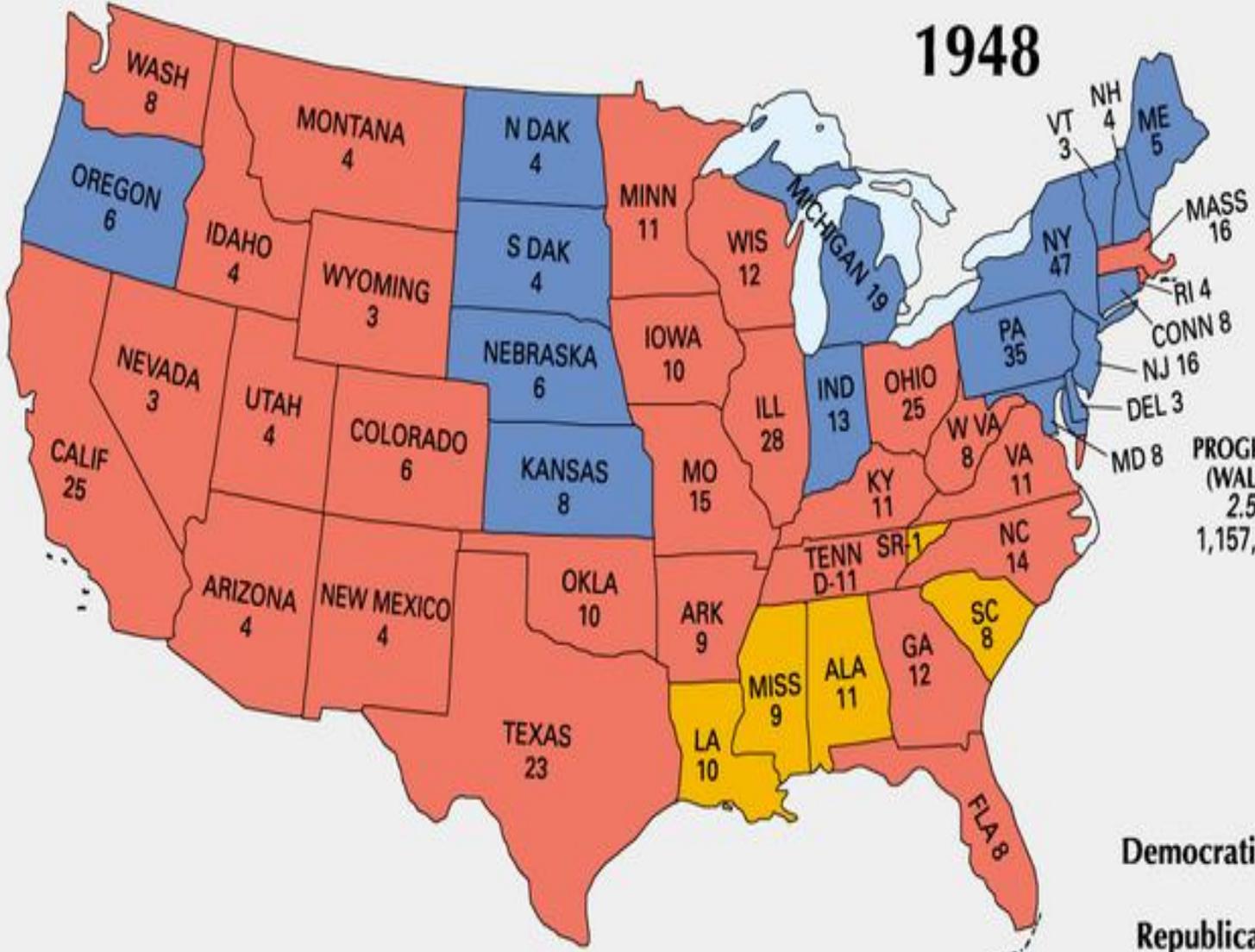
## "Dewey Defeats Truman"

### Why?

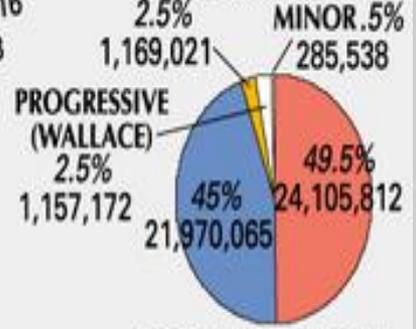
- Truman went on the attack
- Dewey never countered
- Blacks and other minorities  
voted for Truman
- Farmers remembered FDR  
during the Great Depression



# 1948



**ELECTORAL VOTE TOTAL: 531**



**POPULAR VOTE TOTAL: 48,687,608**

- Democratic (Truman)
- Republican (Dewey)
- States' Rights Democratic (Thurmond)

# Revived Fair Deal

- Raised minimum wage from \$0.40 to \$0.75
- Extended Social Security to 10m more people & increased benefits by 75%
- **National Housing Act of 1949**: construction of 810,000 low-income housing units with long-term rent subsidies
- Civil Rights: *Shelley v. Kraemer* (1948)
  - Courts could not be used to enforce private covenants meant to ban blacks from residential neighborhoods

