

The Republicans campaigned largely on the theme that the New Deal was hardly to be distinguished from Soviet communism. A thousand changes were rung on that single key. Frank Knox declared: "We are not in a political campaign. We are in a campaign to save America" from "fanatics, theorists and impractical experimenters." In another talk he warned Americans to "be on your guard. Silently in the night they are creeping up, seeking to impose upon us, before we realize it, a new and alien kind of government."

The Liberty League played subtly on the theme of racial prejudice. Doubtless hoping to stir up the same kind of storm that had greeted the news that Theodore Roosevelt had invited Booker T. Washington to a meeting at the White House, the League circulated a photograph of Mrs. Roosevelt standing beside two blacks. A caption pointed out that blacks had been invited to eat and even sleep at the White House. The league also distributed literature implying that social security (which required a matching deduction from employees' wages) was, in fact, a government-mandated pay reduction. Much was also made by the league of the fact that John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers had thrown their moral and financial support to Roosevelt. At their convention in Washington in 1936 the UMW delegates had declared, "We are for Roosevelt, the greatest humanitarian of our time. . . ." Before the campaign was over, the UMW had contributed \$400,000 to the President's campaign.

Outside of the South the major newspapers and the great newspaper chains like the Hearst and Scripps-Howard papers were virtually unanimous in their opposition to Roosevelt and their support of Landon. Harold Ickes wrote in his diary that if Roosevelt were reelected, it would be "over the hateful and violent opposition of practically every conservative interest in the country." To Ickes "the fundamental issue was whether we are to have real freedom for the mass of people, not only political but economic, or whether we are to be governed by a small group of economic overlords."

A few weeks after the nominating convention Roosevelt sought refuge at Harold Ickes's home in Maryland. The President and his party, which included Grace Tully and Missy LeHand, had dinner on a steaming summer night on the lawn in front of the house. Tom Corcoran had brought his accordion, and he played and sang much of the evening, with the others joining in on familiar songs. "The President certainly carries his liquor well," Ickes observed, noting that Roosevelt had five gin and ginger ale highballs after dinner without