

Party's Winners Tell GOP How to Go After City Votes

By Julius Duscha

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Republicans were told yesterday to stop waiting for the rural vote to come in and to concentrate instead on city problems.

The advice was given at

closing sessions of a two-day meeting in the Statler-Hilton Hotel attended by Republican chairmen from 18 big cities.

It came from successful candidates and campaign managers who won elections last year in New York, Phila-

delphia, Louisville and Los Angeles.

"Since 1948," said Julius A. Leetham, the Los Angeles Republican chairman, "we have been waiting for that mythical rural vote edge to come in . . . and tailoring an appeal to a vanished vote hasn't been realistic."

"The Negro vote is available," declared J. Earl Dearing, a Negro who is Prosecuting Attorney in Louisville, "if we go out and work for it."

Dearing advised Republicans to concentrate on such issues as paving the streets and repairing the street lights in Negro areas in addition to working for legislation outlawing discrimination and opening up jobs for Negroes.

Arlen Specter, the Democrat who ran on the Republican ticket and was elected Philadelphia district attorney last fall, told the GOP chairmen that the party's candidates should deal with specific issues rather than philosophical generalities.

William J. Devlin, the Philadelphia Republican chairman, urged the GOP to appeal to union members by supporting repeal of Section 14 (b) of the Taft-Hartley Act which allows states to prohibit the union shop.

Summing up the two-day meeting, Ray C. Bliss, the chairman of the Republican National Committee and or-

ganizer of the sessions, said they demonstrated that "if you had a candidate who was willing to campaign in the tough areas of town and if he is backed up by a sound organization you can win."

Bliss has been calling on Republicans to put more emphasis on the vote in big cities ever since he wrote a report on the problem in 1961.

The meeting this week was the first of three that Bliss hopes to hold this year to discuss winning campaign techniques with the Republican chairmen in at least the 70 largest cities.