

Coming:
RECREATING SOCIALISM
 By LEWIS COREY

Workers Age

Weekly Paper of the Independent Labor League of America

TEACHERS UNION CLIQUE IN
 "ANTI-RED" TRICK . . . page 2.
F. D. R. MAPS PLANS FOR NEW SES-
 SION OF CONGRESS . . . page 3.

Vol. 8, No. 50.

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1939.

5 CENTS

Lovestone Called Before The Dies Committee

OUR readers are aware from the daily press that last week Jay Lovestone appeared before the Dies Committee in Washington to answer a series of questions relating to the committee's investigation of "un-American activities." He came under subpoena and not as a voluntary witness in the fashion of Earl Browder, William Z. Foster and other Stalinist leaders.

As soon as the transcript of Lovestone's testimony is available, the most important sections will be published in the columns of this paper.

Australia Labor Cool To Empire Jingoism

Opposes Conscription, War Dictatorship

(Special to the Workers Age)
 Sydney, Australia, October 25, 1939.

AUSTRALIA is at war. A few minutes after Chamberlain's broadcast announcement that Britain was at war with Germany, the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Menzies, announced that Australia was also at war. The people were not consulted. Parliament itself was not consulted. Apparently, the Cabinet had secretly decided on war and timed the announcement to coincide with Chamberlain's statement.

The government lost no time in enacting a so-called National Security Act, a measure that need not be detailed here because it contains all the clauses of similar measures enacted abroad. If put into effect in its entirety, it would make any organized opposition to war extremely difficult. This act was opposed by the Labor Party representatives in Parliament—in refreshing contrast to the last war when the Labor Party, then the government, enacted a similar measure itself, and promised Britain "the last man and the last shilling."

LABOR PARTY ATTITUDE

The Labor Party is not opposing the war. Indeed, it has expressed its support of Britain and her allies, but it objects to any soldiers being sent from Australia to fight overseas, mainly on the plea that Australia needs all its man-power for its own defense.

It can be said with truth that the Labor Party has hitherto displayed no enthusiasm for the war and that its formal support of Britain is not backed up with anything concrete. The jingoism has characterized the Labor Party as "benevolently neutral"—a fairly correct description which applies to the rank and file with even greater aptness.

The Prime Minister pandered to this disinclination to participate actively in the war by stating that it was unlikely that soldiers would be required overseas. However, when his repressive legislation had safely passed thru Parliament, he announced that a volunteer army would be formed for services "at home and abroad."

With a suitable propaganda campaign, an appeal was launched for 20,000 recruits as a first instalment. It was stated that those desiring to enlist should waste no time in availing themselves of the privilege because the recruiting offices would be open for only two days. That was three weeks ago, and the stipulated number has not enlisted yet!

Great is the bewilderment of the authorities and many are the excuses concocted by the press scribes. Such a contrast to the response for volunteers in the early part of the last war is exceedingly disturbing to the imperialists. In a desperate attempt to end the embarrassing situation, the government has increased the family allowances for married volunteers and increased the camp attractions with added comforts.

Now we are deluged with propaganda to the effect that, after all, the voluntary system is "undemocratic." It puts all of the burden on to willing shoulders, thus allowing shirkers to evade their obligations. Compulsory training for home service has suddenly been introduced for young men, as in England. This is doubtless the precursor of a policy of compulsory service for overseas as well. This will meet with immense opposition from the masses, who have not forgotten their successful fight against conscription on two occasions during the last war. In fact, this very week-end the various Labor Councils thruout Australia are holding mass demonstrations to (Continued on Page 3)

State A.F.L. Condemns Labor Board

Federation Warns That SLRB Is Trying To Impose Government Control!

Albany, N. Y.

Following up the attack by President George Meany on the State Labor Relations Board, the Executive Council of the New York State Federation of Labor adopted a resolution last week condemning the S.L.R.B. and warning every affiliated local A. F. of L. union in the state that it was "attempting to destroy free trade unions."

The preamble to the resolution stated that the S.L.R.B. law, enacted in 1937, declared it to be the policy of the state to encourage collective bargaining as a means of reducing industrial strife and said:

"The S.L.R.B. has now set forth as its policy that it has governmental supervision and control over contracts entered into with established unions of the A. F. of L. and employers despite their acknowledgment that these unions are bona-fide collective bargaining agencies."

"The S.L.R.B. now publicly proclaims that the established trade unions have no rights under said law and will receive no consideration from the S.L.R.B.; therefore be it resolved:

"That the Executive Council vigorously condemns the action of the New York State Labor Relations Board in interfering with the rights of bona-fide trade unions to maintain contractual relations with employers and in addition interfering with the right of these unions to maintain constitutional contractual relationships with their members."

The resolution further stated that the Executive Council, on behalf of the Federation, "proclaims its resentment" at this unwarranted assumption of power by the S.L.R.B. as leading to the destruction of voluntary democratic control of trade unions in this state and substituting in its place a government-controlled system of trade unionism.

It also announced that legislation would be sought at the coming session "to curb the arrogant, autocratic attempt of the S.L.R.B. to hamper and destroy free trade unionism in this state."

New York City

The New York Central Trades and Labor Council, representing over 600,000 A. F. of L. members in the city, adopted a resolution last week declaring its support of the stand taken by the Executive Council of the New York State Federation of Labor in condemnation of the State Labor Relations Board.

The "Fourth New Deal"

"LEFT-WING New Dealers are increasingly critical of the President, arguing that he is using the war abroad to divert attention from problems at home. New pump-priming and reform suggestions recently have been cold-shouldered by the White House with repercussions on the morale of the planners."—"Washington Whispers" column, United States News, Dec. 4, 1939.

Anti-Lynch Bill Fight to Be Resumed

NAACP And Congressmen Confer On Pushing Measure In Session

Washington, D. C.

The Gavagan-Fish anti-lynching bill (H. R. 801), which is on top of the Congress calendar, will be called up in the House of Representatives on Monday, January 8, 1940, according to indications here.

The announcement followed a conference held in Representative Gavagan's office on November 21. Those present at the conference included Representative Gavagan, Democrat of New York, who has piloted the measure thru several Congressional battles; Representative Hamilton Fish, Republican of New York; Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Arthur B. Spingarn, chief of the N. A. A. C. P.'s national legal committee; and Thurgood Marshall, special legal counsel.

At the conference it was agreed that Gavagan and Fish would lead the two-party campaign to get the bill passed in the House.

The N. A. A. C. P. has written to each of the 218 Congressmen who signed the discharge petition which forced the bill out of committee and indirectly made possible its present preferred position on the House calendar, urging them to be in Washington on January 8 and on the floor of the House, and also to present on each day thereafter to prevent opponents from attempting to kill the bill. A similar request was sent to all Congressmen who come from states where Negro citizens have the right to vote, but did not sign the discharge petition.

The bill is being brought up on January 8, because under the rules of the House of Representatives the second and fourth Mondays of the month are the legislative days on which action on discharge petitions may be taken. January 8 is the second Monday of the month.

Opponents of the anti-lynch bill are certain to be on the floor at all times, as they have in past fights, seeking to take advantage of the smallest opportunity to kill the bill. They may (1) vote against the adoption of the rule calling the bill up for debate; (2) vote to recommit the bill, which would bury it for the rest of the session; (3) vote to strike out the enactment clause.

If the supporters of the anti-lynching bill are not present in sufficient force on January 8, the opponents of the bill may muster sufficient strength to vote against the adoption of a rule or to recommit and that would be the end of the bill for this session of Congress.

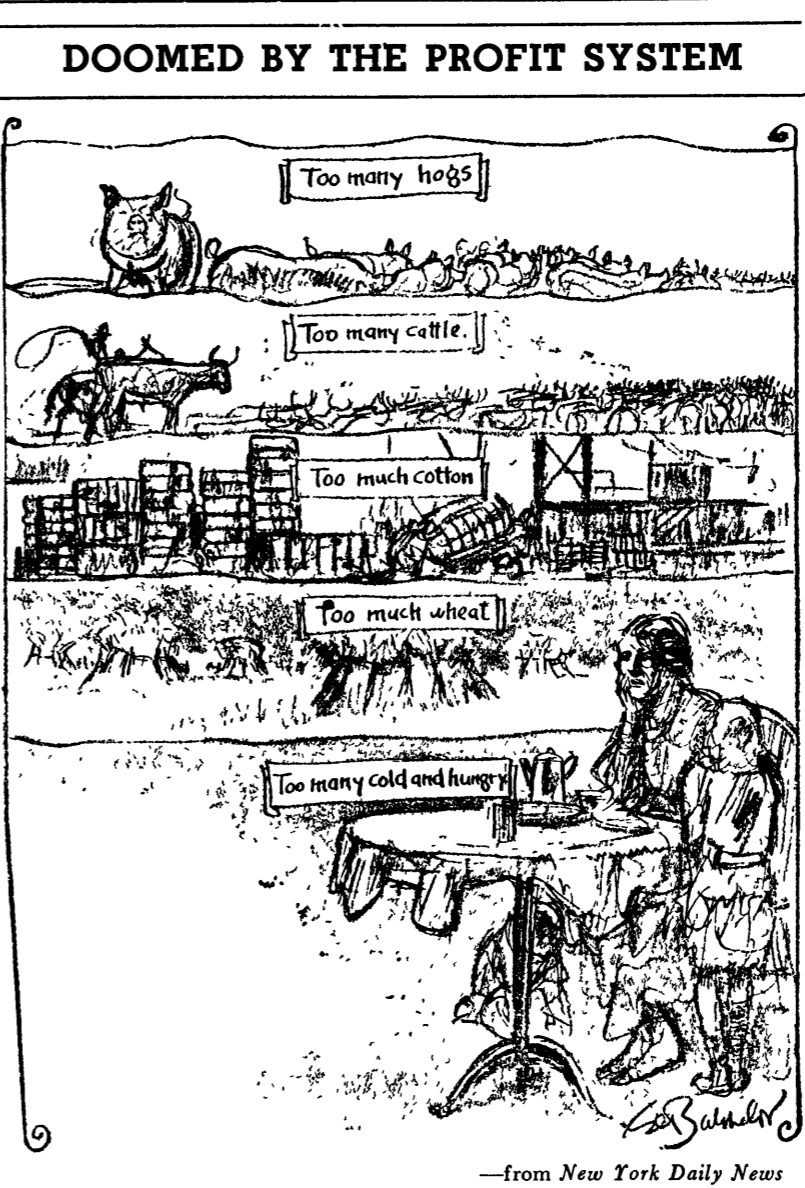
the workers plus the promise of return of the discharged men.

The Chrysler workers were caught in a vise from which they could not escape. They were already out on the street when they were asked to vote on the strike. To return to work would be to desert those who were fired and to make it appear that they did not want the demands the leaders made on the company.

Hoping to get around legal obstacles which bar strikers from obtaining unemployment insurance, the U. A. W.-C. I. O. set up its picket lines but did not officially call the strike even tho R. J. Thomas, still out of breath from his dash from the West Coast and not quite clear as to what was going on, proceeded to "authorize" what had been declared to be a "lockout" by Frankenstein.

(Continued on page 3)

Russia Hits at Rumania; Attack on Finland Bogs



Italy Opposes USSR Thrust In Balkans

Tho the invasion of Finland was only a few days old and Russian troops had made but little headway, the Soviet government, thru the agency of the Communist International, indicated last week the direction in which it was planning another aggressive thrust in the near future. In a special article in the official publication of the C. I., Rumania was warned to accept a "mutual-assistance" pact with Russia similar to those recently forced upon Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which converted these Baltic countries into Russian puppet states. The article denounced economic, social and political conditions in Rumania, with special stress on Bessarabia, the return of which to Russia is apparently going to be Moscow's entering wedge in the Balkans. The article hinted broadly that Russia might be "compelled" to go to the aid of the oppressed peoples of Rumania. Another article in the same issue of the C. I.'s paper directed virulent criticism at Turkey for its shift to the side of the Allies.

The next day the Russian Foreign Office issued a statement disavowing the article, declaring that it "did not represent the views" of the Soviet government. Within a few hours, Moscow made another announcement which put quite a different face to the disavowal of the article against Rumania. An official bulletin in the press stated that a special military district had been created along the Rumanian frontier, ranking with that of the Leningrad area which is directing the invasion of Finland. This district was fixed in the Odessa region, facing Bessarabia. The establishment of the new military district for operations against Rumania was naturally regarded as of significance far outweighing the formal diplomatic "disavowal" of the Moscow Foreign Office.

The unprecedented action of the Soviet Foreign Office in "disavowing" what was undoubtedly an officially-inspired threat against Rumania was attributed in informed quarters to German pressure on Moscow to "appease" Italy. The Fascist Grand Council met in Rome towards the middle of the week and issued a statement reaffirming the Berlin-Rome Axis "in all its strength" and warned Russia, "in the name by name, that anything that might occur in the Danube Basin or the Balkans was of direct vital interest to Italy. The Communist International article came as a direct challenge to Rome. Thereupon the German Foreign Office exerted pressure on Moscow to make a gesture of "appeasement" to Italy, and the official "disavowal" was the result. But any one acquainted with how these things are done by totalitarian states such as Russia and Germany, could see that the drive against Rumania was definitely initiated, despite all attempts at "disavowal," and that further moves would soon be forthcoming, depending largely on the diplomatic situation and on military developments in Finland. Indeed, there (Continued on Page 2)

Collapse of Ohio Relief System Due to Politics

People Starve As State Refuses Any Aid

Columbus, Ohio.

After a conference between Mayor Burton of Cleveland and Governor Bricker of Ohio held here last week, the State Board of Tax Appeals gave the city of Cleveland permission to issue \$1,200,000 of bonds against delinquent taxes in order to finance relief for the rest of this year and part of next.

(Special to the Workers Age)

Cleveland, Ohio.

THE whole country is shocked at the virtual breakdown of unemployment relief in this city and the wide distress it has caused. What is not so well known is that this situation is not new nor is it limited to Cleveland; it is rampant in Toledo, Dayton, Youngstown, Lima, Columbus and other large cities of the state. In fact, it would not be too much to say that the whole state of Ohio finds itself in the grip of a crisis that is a most startling illustration of the paradox of want, stark, staring want, in the midst of plenty. For Ohio, you must understand is a "rich" state, rich in business profits, rich in per-capita wealth.

In Cleveland, 16,000 jobless men and women, consisting of the single people and of couples without any dependents on the lists, have been thrown off relief altogether and left to starve. The 24,000 remaining on the rolls are now on "emergency rations" which means that from all allowances will be cut to two-thirds of the previous very meager standards. And even that will last only until the new year; what will happen then, nobody knows.

The newspapers are full of pitiful tales of the distress of the scores of thousands who are in dire need in this city and for whom the public authorities can or will do nothing. Desperate crowds mass before relief stations and social-welfare agencies demanding something to eat. Attempted suicides are multiplying and panic is spreading everywhere. It is all too reminiscent of the hunger-march days nine or ten years ago.

Some officials say that conditions in Toledo are even worse than here. Toledo has shut its poverty-stricken schools. In Dayton, the crisis came sooner and the shortage of relief has lasted longer. Dayton hospitals are now beginning to feel the brunt of the malnutrition cases.

The present collapse of relief in this state is manifest for all to see. But the trouble is not essentially economic; it is political.

Before 1935, federal spending for relief in Ohio amounted to \$80,000,000 a year. In that year, Washington turned relief over to the states. Thereupon, the State Legislature, dominated by rural and business interests, cut the figure to \$15,000,000 and later reduced it still further. Yet the very rock-bottom minimum need of the state is at least \$30,000,000. As soon as federal aid stopped, relief benefits dropped sharply; families who had been receiving \$35 a month from the U. S. A. now got as little as \$9, \$10 or \$12 from the state.

The relief bills passed at Columbus with the support of the utility and business lobbies have always been outrageously unfair based not on need but on political geography. To rural Monroe County, Republican, which never had much of a relief problem, the state gave \$44.43 per month per relief case; the county paid out only \$21.17 per case, actually making \$23.26 profit on each! But urban Cuyahoga County (Cleveland), Democratic, with the highest living costs in the state, got \$5.99 per case per month, spent \$24.40 per case, and so had a deficit of \$18.41. In 1936, 30 counties in the state ended the year with a surplus from unnecessary relief money, while Lucas County (Toledo) had a deficit of \$300,000, Cuyahoga County \$1,250,000.

That's how the State Legislature distributes the funds. At the same time, the state government has made it virtually impossible for cities to raise the necessary relief funds even by taxing themselves. Thus, relief taxing power could solve the crisis in Cleveland, at least for the time being, but the Legislature and business interests simply won't allow it.

Not only has the state tied the hands of the cities, denying them the right to levy relief taxes, but it also collects and keeps the proceeds of a savage sales tax, 3% on everything, the proceeds of a liquor monopoly and of a 4-cent gasoline tax. But there's no money for relief! The state government is headed (Continued on Page 2)

Chrysler Workers Return to Plants After 55-Day Strike

Grave Blunders of UAW-CIO Leadership Take Their Toll

By J. ANDREWS

Detroit, Mich.

MORE than a 100,000 automobile workers returned to work last week as a result of the settlement of the 55-day old Chrysler strike conducted by the C. I. O.'s United Automobile Workers. Chief gains for the union were improvements in the grievance procedure in the new contract and a blanket three-cent-an-hour raise for all production workers plus certain wage adjustments for some of the lower-paid operations.

Chief credit for the settlement must go to Phillip Murray, C. I. O. vice-president, who entered the negotiations forty-eight hours before the strike ended.

The terms of the settlement were overwhelmingly accepted after stormy sessions with the Chrysler workers. At the Dodge meeting, which was attended by 18,000 workers, Murray, Frankenstein and Thomas were greeted with a roar of boos and catcalls when they appeared on the platform. Only a portion of the terms of settlement had been read to the meeting when a cry of "Vote! Vote! Vote!" went up from the floor. The workers were more interested in going back to work than they were in the new agreement. The long duration of the strike had strained the endurance of the workers to the breaking point and altho they were dissatisfied with the small gains as compared with what the union had originally de-

manded, very few wanted to prolong the strike further.

Murray and Frankenstein played on the back-to-work sentiment they knew predominated in order to silence opposition to the settlement from the floor. Hecklers and objectors were met with the question: "Do you want to go back out on the picket line and keep workers away from their jobs?" "Do you want another Little Steel strike with bayonets in your backs?"

The settlement came just in time to nip in the bud a number of back-to-work movements that were getting under way. Had the strike lasted another week, it is very likely that the U. A. W.-C. I. O. ranks would have broken. Father Coughlin, G. L. K. Smith, the "small business men," and Homer Martin were all doing their best to encourage back-to-work sentiment thru radio speeches and newspaper publicity.

Besides damaging the strike, Martin's activities in this line only helped to provide a scapegoat on whom the C. I. O. union could place the blame for its own failures to obtain more gains. Altho groups of workers began to sign the petitions Martin distributed, observers agreed that members gained by this method would not represent a healthy or enduring growth. Martin's back-to-work activities, which he undertook on his own responsibility, aroused considerable dissatisfaction in the ranks of the U. A. W.-A. F. L. and caused some embarrassment to the American Federation of Labor, which had remained aloof from the situation.

The conduct of the strike revealed the bankruptcy of the leadership of the U. A. W.-C. I. O. and particularly of Richard Frankenstein, in whose hands the affairs of the Chrysler locals rested. From its very beginning, the leaders perpetrated an amazing series of tactical blunders which served to endanger the possibilities of gaining anything at all for the workers.

It has been fairly well established that "Big Dick" Frankenstein gave the original order to Stalinist shop stewards in Dodge to slow down production to 50%. Apparently, this was to put "pressure" on the company before making formal demands on it. The method succeeded far beyond expectations since Dodge was forced down and Chrysler shut down the rest of their plants, these being dependent on the key Dodge plant. The company promptly fired some 128 stewards and workers who obeyed Frankenstein's orders and asked the workers to slow down.

Frankenstein hurriedly got out a series of demands on Chrysler, including union shop, joint control of production standards, a 10% raise, an improved contract, etc. After Chrysler had knocked the chip off the shoulder of the U. A. W.-C. I. O. by firing 128 men, there was nothing to do but to fight, so strike votes were taken on the basis of the glittering demands dangled in front of

For a **HAPPY NEW YEAR** (see Ad on page 2)

FRIDAY NIGHT December 15, 1939 8:15 P. M.

WILL HERBERG speaks on: "The New Stalin Imperialism"

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FDR Maps Plans for Session of Congress

Heavy Arms Spending but Cuts in Relief

By ARTHUR GREEN

Washington, D. C. THE Administration is already busy at work preparing for the next session of Congress in January... with an eye to the 1940 elections...

get (except for the army and navy) and to lay off "experiments," that is, progressive social legislation...

British See Goering As "Angel of Peace"

(These paragraphs are from Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen's "Washington Merry-Go-Round" column of November 30, 1939—Editor)

POWERFUL influences in the British government are working right now for the end of the war thru some internal Nazi explosion which would get rid of Hitler.

economic situation today does not necessarily mean any substantial increase in employment. Official figures show that as plainly as possible...

Gandhi Nationalists, Princes Back Empire

M. N. Roy Declares for Stalin-Hitler Pact

By J. CORK

IN my last article on India, I quoted Lord Samuel's remarks in the debate on India in the House of Lords on November 2.

active also in the principalities. The All-India State People's Conference recently issued a public manifesto on the situation in these centers of feudal rule.

M. N. ROY FOR STALIN PACT

M. N. Roy has come out in favor of the Nazi-Soviet pact. In the August 27 issue of his paper, Independent India, he says: "The pact is a triumph for Soviet diplomacy over the anti-Communist pact. The Nazis have been compelled to eat their words..."

Peace, Relief Main Issue in America Today

THE problems of keeping America out of war and giving jobs to the unemployed are the two issues which tower above all others in the public mind today...

Keeping out of war 47% Solving unemployment 24% Recovery for business 6% Adjustment of labor problems 3% Threats to democratic institutions 3% Adequate relief 3% Balancing the budget 2% Farm aid 1% Old-age pensions 1% Spiritual needs 1% All others 9%

"The American desire to keep out of war is no new manifestation," the Institute stressed. "In surveys conducted on the same question in the past four years, we found a large group of voters naming it the No. 1 problem in United States life."

Where will all this money come from? There is no definite agreement as yet. The tendency is to rely on further borrowing, but there is a strong sentiment, especially among Mr. Roosevelt's conservative allies...

Books by Jim Cork

THE NEGRO FAMILY IN THE UNITED STATES, by E. Franklin Frazier. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill., 1939.

FASCINATING and compelling material concerning the evolution of the Negro family is presented here in such a way as to challenge many concepts and dogmas concerning the role of the Negroes in American life.

Members Attack C.P. Trickery on Pact

Group Continues Exposure of New "Line"

(Concluded from Last Issue) YES, it certainly looks to us as if the Third International is repeating the shameful collapse of the Second International in 1914.

program of revolutionary Marxism and Leninism, and to make the Communist Party an effective instrument of the class struggle.

Chrysler Men to Return to Work After Long Strike

(Continued from page 1)

After negotiations had gotten under way, the union promptly dropped its demands for a union shop and joint control of production. Negotiations were marked by much bitterness and often were near the breaking point.

procedure have been exhausted, but another clause has been added which specifies that any strike, slow-down or stoppage by the union called before the bargaining procedure has been completed with automatically terminates the agreement.

Australian Labor and War

(Continued from page 1)

was welcomed as a heaven-sent opportunity to effect a "lasting and durable peace!" Naturally, well-merited contempt and scorn have been poured upon the C.P. by labor and trade-union leaders.

With the outbreak of war, the joy of the Stalinists was unbounded. Here was the great opportunity for which they had agitated to deal a smashing blow at Hitlerism.

INDIAN PRINCES BACK EMPIRE

The Indian princes are, of course, lining up solidly behind the Empire. One maharajah after another has expressed his satisfaction at Viceroy Linlithgow's statement turning thumbs down on the Congress's demand for independence.

TROTSKYITES FIGHT WAR

The small group of Trotskyites, calling themselves the Communist League, are carrying on, to the best of their ability, a courageous campaign against the war.

Harlem Spanish Aid Group Rebels Against C.P. Rule

THE Negro People's Committee for Spanish Refugees, a Communist Party "front" organization among the Negroes, was rocked to its depths last week by an internal explosion and now faces a very uncertain future.

by Mr. Reissing came the resignations of Lester B. Granger, national chairman, and Paul Murray, executive secretary, of the Negro People's Committee.

Mass Meeting "Russia and the World Crisis" Thursday, Dec. 21—8:15 P. M. at MANHATTAN CENTER 34th Street and 8th Avenue Speakers: Will Herberg — Minnie Lurye

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