

## Film Stars Open Drive To Sever Ties With Reich

### Actors and Executives Ask U. S. to Order Total Embargo

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 9 (AP).—Motion picture executives and players were signing a "declaration of independence" today, calling upon President Roosevelt and Congress to sever economic relations with Nazi Germany.

Within the next few weeks they plan to ask millions of theatergoers throughout the country to sign copies of the document to forward to Washington. It urges that "all economic connections between the governments of the United States and Germany be totally severed until such time as Germany is willing to re-enter the family of nations in accordance with the humane principles of international law and universal freedom."

Melvyn Douglas, actor, who presided at a meeting of fifty leaders of the motion picture industry at the Beverly Hills home of Edward G. Robinson, where the movement was launched last night, said it was "a spontaneous affair."

"The President has done all he can in the matter," Douglas told the gathering. "He can't order an embargo because this is not a dictatorship. The idea is to place an embargo on Germany, which would weaken its position immeasurably. Such a step would set a precedent for the rest of the world."

Douglas said it was expected that between 20,000,000 and 30,000,000 signatures of theatergoers throughout the nation would be obtained

within the next three weeks. Among those who signed the declaration at the initial meeting, Douglas said, were Fred Astaire, Robert Montgomery, Gale Sondergaard, Joan Bennett, Claudette Colbert, George Cukor, John Ford, Miriam Hopkins, Rosemary Lane, Anatole Litvak, Aline MacMahon, Paul Muni, Groucho Marx, Fay Bainter, Ginger Rogers, Claude Rains, Martha Raye, Gloria Stuart, Helen Gabagan, Ira Gershwin and Bette Davis.

## 375 German Refugees Arrive on U. S. Liner

### Seamen Protest to Hull on Arrests in Reich

The United States liner Washington arrived from Europe yesterday with 375 refugees from Germany among her total of 743 passengers. The refugees boarded the liner at Hamburg, Southampton and Havre. They arrived here under the quotas to take up permanent residence.

Many of the refugees were interested in a petition forwarded by representatives of the stewards' department to the Department of State in which a protest was made against "Nazi procedures against American seamen in Germany." It cited the arrest on the liner Washington on November 30 at Hamburg of a ship's waiter, described as "M. Roth," who was taken to a Nazi jail without the crew's being able to learn the nature of his alleged crime. Ship's representatives said that for many months two and three of the crew of the Washington had been arrested for "crimes" while the ship was berthed at Hamburg.