

# Elmer Rice Pulls Mask Off Film Alliance

By David Platt

Elmer Rice, the playwright, yanks the "false whiskers" off the Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals in the Dec. 23rd issue of Saturday Review of Literature. What is revealed, he says, is the "ugly and sinister visage of intolerance and reaction."

Rice also takes red-baiter Morrie Ryskind of the MPA for a ride for his charge that "American Soviet-eers are trying to take over the motion picture industry as they tried to take over in the Newspaper Guild, Teachers Union, Lawyers Guild, etc." In a sharp exchange of letters with Ryskind, Rice makes the following counter-charges:



1. The MPA ignored letters requesting their attendance at screen guild and union meetings to discuss MPA red-baiting.
2. They refused to name names and give specific examples of alleged Soviet influence in Hollywood.
3. MPA officers are identified with Screen Playwrights, a company union.
4. MPA's activities have been publicized almost exclusively in the reactionary press.
5. MPA leaders are notoriously well known to be anti-Negro, anti-Semitic, anti-labor and anti-alien.

"Behind the false whiskers of the Motion Picture Alliance," says Rice, "lurks the ugly and sinister visage of intolerance and reaction." That's that!

#### TOMORROW THE WORLD

The Hollywood Writers Mobilization will soon honor Lester Cowan's Tomorrow the World at a "Town

Meeting" premiere in Hollywood. This will be no ordinary premiere. Emmett Lavery, HWM Chairman says "the questions asked on the microphones will not be 'What are you wearing?' or 'Won't you say a few words to your fans?' They will be 'What do you think should be done with little Emil, and the millions of warped little Nazis who are growing up in Germany?' and 'What can we do to make sure that other generations of boys are not transformed into little Fascist beasts through systematic subhuman conditions?'" This is a step forward in the business of pointing attention to and provoking discussion of the intrinsic merits of important motion pictures.

#### THEATER INCIDENT

The other day a sneak preview of Tomorrow the World was held in Santa Anna, Calif., a stronghold of Kukluxism. In the audience were anti-semites and red-baiters, writes a Hollywood friend, "and when Emil, the Nazi boy in the picture says his airplane trip from New York had been ruined because he had to sit next to a 'big fat Jew,' about half the audience laughed approvingly." Then Frederic March, the anti-nazi professor explains that Betty Field, his fiancée, is Jewish and that anti-semitism is not looked on with favor in America and the point is driven home that this kind of thinking is entirely un-American. "There was no more laughter from the Ku Kluxers," writes our correspondent. "They were very apparently uncomfortable at being identified so closely with the ideology of Hitlerism."