BROADWAY BEAT

16 By BARNARD RUBIN

MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT *has been speaking a good deal at the UN recently about the free press. She wants to see other countries with as free a press as the commercial papers are alleged to be here.*

In a recent issue of the World-Telegram, *in which Mrs. Roosevelt's column is printed, she criticized Gov. Dewey for using the state police to bar a delegation of working mothers from his Pawling home, when they came to plead for continuance of child care centers in New York.*

That column was pulled out of the World-Telegram *after it ran for just one edition. It was killed in all subsequent editions of the* World-Telegram *that day.*

In the space usually occupied by her column the editors substituted another story headlined: RUSSIANS ADMIT OWN COAL CRISIS. . . .

TOWN TALK

The New York Philharmonic will probably not appoint a permanent conductor next season either, despite reports to the contrary. . . .

Garson Kanin looking for a Negro lead for a musical version of Camille, written by Howard Deitz and Anita Loos. Muriel Smith being considered. . . .

Robert Montgomery, when he was at the Cavalcade of America broadcast Monday night, tried awfully hard to get friendly with the other performers. They didn't give him a tumble (who can be friendly with an Un-American Committee-FBI stooge?). . . .

Universal Pictures let four more executives go last week. Still no relatives. . . .

Signe Hasso in town with angel money looking for a play. . . .

Mary Pickford has the bug, too, and wants to produce a Broadway musical this coming spring. . . .

Friday, Dec. 12 will see something new. A Chanuka Hootenanny—put on by Jewish Life and People's Songs at the Pythian Temple. . . .

Theatre marquee lighting has been banned in Newport, Vermont. A long drought there has resulted in an acute shortage of electric power due to the low water supply. . . .

The Harold Lloyd comic short producing outfit is called Impossible Pictures. Francis Lederer has offered a slogan to Lloyd: "When better shorts are made, Impossible Pictures will go out of business. . . ."

Bing Crosby has just turned down a high cash offer from the Roxy. . . .

It looks like Edward C. Maguire, Mayor O'Dwyer's new Commissioner of Commerce, will make the following appointments: Retail Merchant Charles Gerard Commissioner of Banking, Thomas J. Shanley, vice president of the Federation Bank; and Deputy Commissioner of Finance, Leon Coleman, former president of the New York Stock Exchange.

Red Skelton tells about the guy who was so tired when he got home from work that his wife let him wash the dishes in bed. . . .

Van Heflin may still be in the running to play in the movie version of Thomas Wolfe's novel, Look Homeward Angel. Robert Mitchum is his competition. . . .

The Oct. 5 Sunday edition of the New York Daily News ran a story on page 24 quoting the Reverend Thomas F. Carey, assistant national director of the Holy Name Society, to the effect that 64 billion dollars in lend-lease materials were given to Russia, which Russia was accused of using to "maintain control of half of Europe."

In that very same edition of the Daily News on pages 16 and 17 the rag ran a full two-page spread on the amount of money spent by the United States for use in the rest of the world since the start of World War II. The USSR is listed as having received $11,681,393,7[illegible] in lend-lease (almost all of which was blown up fighting the Nazis). . . .

More people are now using the services of the Legal Aid Society than at any time since the 1930 depression days. . . .

Some are saying that if we don't watch out, the Un-American Committee will overthrow the people. . . .

Fred Allen getting a new sponsor—Ford. . . .

Rudy Vallee peddling a new quiz program. . . .

Lee Tracy, who used to play those fast-talking, Hollywood-style reporters, trying to get on the air with a thing called Windy Wilson, Hollywood Agent. . . .

Frank Sinatra in a battle with the Capitol Theatre about money matters re his coming appearance there. . . .

The Columbia Broadcasting System will reshuffle its Friday night schedule to emphasize comedy programs. . . .

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