

its favor, implies an aloofness of art from social life that is rejected as impossible and undesirable by a majority of the artists themselves.

Therefore the answers to our questions will be sought on political grounds. This means either giving free rein to the emotional impulses involved, or calculating the consequences of the answers with respect to the order of things which appears desirable to those in a position to dictate the answers. Anyone called upon for advice will have to search his conscience: does he wish to lend his hand to the political game, or does he prefer to live by the word of the Gospel: "Judge not, that ye be not judged."

### NO JUDGMENT BY PROXY—Vittorio Rieti

I AM against any intervention by American or European artists living in America, in the affairs of the artists who remained in Europe during the war, and who may now be charged with collaborationism. The problem of retribution is *their* problem, not ours. I feel sure that any expression of opinion coming from this country would bring the following reaction from overseas: "You stayed apart, now leave us alone". This we would hear both from the pro- and the anti-Germans, I believe, and they would be fully justified. Collaboration with German authorities in the artistic field, during the occupation of the various countries, has necessarily been more a question of degree than of principle. We here lack the means to discriminate between opportunism, good faith, weakness, betrayal, dignity, in every individual case. Moreover, were we in full possession of the facts, we would still be in ignorance of what would have been our own attitude in the same case. I presume that many an artist who has been living in America during the hard times feels sincerely that he would have been on the side of out-and-out resistance if he had stayed in Europe. Yet the reality might have been somewhat different.

I have recently read a great many newspapers from liberated areas containing criticisms of the American films sent to these populations in the wake of the liberating Armies. The local European reaction to the Hollywood treatment of European underground, espionage, and resistance was unanimously unfavorable, it showed irritation. Over there they simply don't want us to sit and judge from this comfortable distance. I cannot blame them.