

We are indebted to the National Council of Education for the privilege of presenting Miss Gullan to her Forum audience. Question time should be of particular interest at this meeting.

Sunday Evening, November 1, 1936

ERNST TOLLER

Subject:

"Are You Responsible for Your Times?"

Ideals of the modern man. . . . The leaders and the seducers. . . . The part of the politician, the philosopher, the poet. . . . Is the seducer the only culprit or are we also to blame? . . . The fear of truth and the refusal to think over questions demanding an answer. . . . Evasion of reality. . . . How we mould the future not by action but by failure to act. . . . Is a new war at hand? . . . Can it be circumscribed in a certain area? . . . Ideals versus economics. . . . War and its profiteers. . . . The varying attitudes of the old and the young towards war. . . . Relation of the dictator to war and peace. . . . What can you do about it?

Ernst Toller, one of the world's most famous dramatists, and poets, is now an exile from Germany, living in London. His autobiography, "I Was a German," has been widely read in many countries, having been reviewed with high praise by a host of critics. At the age of twenty-five he was President of the Bavarian Free State. He spent seven of the past eighteen years in prison. Although Ernst Toller subscribes to no political platform he has continually struggled for the enlightenment of the German people and for a spirit of peace. He has fought all forms of political oppression.

He was attending the University of Grenoble, in France, when the war broke out, and, inspired by a fiery patriotism, he at once made his way back to Germany to join the artillery. All that was romantic in him thrilled at the thought of war. Poor health prevented him taking an active part until