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Listening While I Work (42)

By "Matertamilias" =

comments of a few weeks back have not, as I expected, offended the husbands, wives, mothers, and fathers of studio but the artists themselves. I would like to make it clear that I did not at any time say that there should be no studio performances. I recognise that in the interests of the encouragement of art, quite apart from the very special interest that a performance of local artists must naturally have, studio performers must have their opportunity to appear before the wider public of the air. What especially occasioned my remarks was the programme changes that have, over the last months, given over a large proportion of week-end time to studio performances. This does not greatly affect the housewife who can listen on her week-day afternoons and who may be able to plan her evening for listening. But it does affect the many workers who cannot listen during the day except at week-ends and who may not even have many evenings free from overtime, committees, meetings, etc. It was on behalf of the worker who wishes to listen in his leisure that I was, believe me, very humbly raising my pen.

MUSICUS says quite justifiably that "the crowded halls of the last chamber music concerts prove that the audience is very keen to hear music per-

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page) to industry as the art of production. If

we make pianos, we must see that people learn to play them. Why manufacture golf clubs if people do not play golf?

Attack on Drudgery

"How is this reflected in the economic life of America? It is reflected, first of all, in the universal attack on drudgery. America has, with its gadgets and its efficiency, sought to eliminate slavery, to raise the standard of living with shorter hours and better wages, and it has given everyone the feeling that making money is not only possible, but worthy. We have 13 million Negroes in America, who represent, on the aggregate, the lowest standard of living in the country. Yet these 13 million Negroes have acquired two and a-half billion dollars worth of property. We have poverty in America, yes, but we do not regard it as a virtue.

"Even the National Association of Manufacturers, which makes no pretence about its tiesire for profit, holds up to the masses of people in its pamphlets and its publications the philosophy of higher wages and lower costs in the effort to spread well-being. During the depression the nation spent its future without stint. Billions of dollars went to relieve want. Social security programmes have come into being, but the claim now is that social security is benefiting only a portion of the population. The cry is that it must be spread to touch the country as a whole. And now the leading thinkers of America, such as Vice-President Wallace, are championing the cause of lifting the standard of well-being the world over as the only solution of our own problem of freedom from want."