

March 19, 1955

Detroit Olympia Stadium April 30 to Battle Delinquency

Michigan's Governor Lauds Courier Benefit Show

By **IZZY ROWE**, Theatre Editor

NEW YORK-In New York last week for a national committee dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria, Gov. G. Mennen Williams, of Michigan, lauded the Courier for its bold step to aid the fight against juvenile delinquency in his state and told this writer that he would personally make every effort to attend the gigantic affair at the Olympia in Detroit, April 30.

While the contest rolls votingly on to a final conclusion, other important developments took shape on the Command Concert front. Set to be one of the most historic, most star-filled musical

events of the decade, it is shaping up with talent from the best stars in the country.

Such great stars as Louis Jordan, Lionel Hampton, Errol Garner, Count Basie, "Wild Bill" Davis, Ruth Brown, Ella Fitzgerald, Joni James, Dinah Washington, Dorothy Bandridge, Nat Cole and Sammy Davis among others are at present juggling dates in an attempt to make the great effort for youth. Many of the new finds, includ-

ing Olga James and Doryce Brown along with Jo Thompson and Mary Broomfield are attempting to get time off from a busy schedule to appear at the affair. Eartha Kitt, health and bookings permitting, will also be on stage to make this the 'gonest' affair ever held in Detroit or America.

Alan Freed, the high and mighty of "Rock and Roll" and Harold Jackson, "The House That Jack Built," are among the famous deejays who have consented to take the concert down. Others have been contacted and are expected to join the local lads to help the greatest cause in America.

Theatrical Page



They Plan to Be There—Errol Garner (left), the sensational pianist, will be among the many stars who will appear at the "Command Performance Concert" in Detroit. He will come through the courtesy of Morris Levy, the Birdland mainstay, who will be honored for his great contribution to

jazz music in '54-'55. Center: Louis Jordan, who's been playing "Rock and Roll" music for many years, is shuffling his bookings so that he will be a great part of the pending show in Detroit, April 30. Right: Allen Freed, the famous disc jockey who has given rhythm and blues, or whatever you want to call it, the big voice in recent years, will be

one of the top-flight emcees in Detroit's Olympia Arena on the big night. The show will be in three parts with jazz, swing and rhythm and blues rocking and rolling for public favor. To spice the entire show the producer will also add the thrilling strains of gospel music.