For Immediate Release
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WPA Completes Arrangements With Sinclair Lewis for Nation-wide Theatrical Production of "It Can't Happen Here."

Works Progress Administrator Harry L. Hopkins announced today that Hallie Flanagan, national director of the WPA Federal Theatre Project, has completed arrangements with Sinclair Lewis for a simultaneous 15-city theatrical production of a play based on Mr. Lewis' novel "It Can't Happen Here."

The play, which will be a dramatization by Mr. Lewis and his collaborator, C. Moffitt, will be staged by 28 WPA theatrical companies composed of certified needy actors on Tuesday night, October 20.

So far as it is known this will be the first time that an American stage play has been produced simultaneously in cities from coast-to-coast. The cities selected for the performance are: Boston, Newark, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Chicago, New York, New Orleans, Cleveland, Dallas, Tacoma, Indianapolis, Syracuse, Detroit and either Jacksonville or Miami.

In concluding arrangements with the Works Progress Administration, Mr. Lewis said:

"In spite of commercial offers for the dramatization of "It Can't Happen Here," I prefer to give it to the Federal Theatre for two reasons, first because of my tremendous enthusiasm for its work and, second, because I know I can depend upon the Federal Theatre for a non-partisan point of view.

"I will give completely of my time and work in aiding the casting, writing and rewriting, etc., with the New York City Project, and will personally supervise
There will be no single set of designs, scenery or costumes in any of the 28 Federal Theatre companies. Each WPA Federal Theatre producer will act independently of all others under the general co-ordinating production direction of Francis Bosworth, Supervisor of playreading in the New York Play Bureau of the Federal Theatre.

Each company will design its own scenery to fit its own region; the costumes will be designed on the same basis of regional characteristics and thus "It Can't Happen Here" will be accorded a dramatic direction keyed to the audiences of each section of the United States.

Negotiations with the Works Progress Administration were handled by Pat Duggan and Harold Matson of Anne Watkins, Inc., literary agents for Mr. Lewis and Mr. Moffitt. Mr. Moffitt is a recognized playwright. He has taken leave of absence from a motion picture studio to go to Mr. Lewis' summer home in Vermont where he and Mr. Lewis will begin work on the script.