

RACE, RELIGION AND CULTURE IN
AMERICA'S DEVELOPMENT

8 December 1964

GENERAL SCHOMBURG: Ladies, with your presence here we have the prettiest audience we have had in a long time. We think you are going to enjoy tonight; as a matter of fact I know you are. You know what the subject matter is, you have a program and I would like to tell you that we spent a great deal of time in choosing tonight's speaker. Many of us participated. We had many, many fine speakers and the selection was not easy, but when we decided we knew we had just the man for you. You will find him most interesting, provocative and I will not cover his biography; your husbands all have that. I know by the time you start home you are going to want to know more about it and you can ask them then. Dr. Lerner does not know this but I think I will put in a plug for a book of his. "The Age of Overkill" and when you hear him tonight I am sure that many of you will want to see this book. We have it in our library or maybe Dr. Lerner would like to have you buy it. So I give you a distinguished scholar, educator, and journalist: Dr. Max Lerner.

DR. LERNER: General Schomburg, Ladies and Gentlemen, the president of my university tells me that when you get presented as generously as I have just been presented to you by General Schomburg, the best thing to do is take it. He says it is better to have a little taffy while you are still alive than a lot of epitaph after you are dead. I am grateful for this bit of taffy while I am still alive.

On one of the college campuses on which I spent part of my misspent life I recall a story we used to have about a colleague of ours. The story went that he dreamt once that he was lecturing to his class and woke up to find that he was. A good deal of what we do in our modern world is done somnambulistically. A great French philosopher Andre' Bergson was once asked to deliver a paper to a Congress of Philosophers. He was not able to do the paper but he sent a message. The message consisted of a single