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We May Soon Read of Startling Developments

By ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

NEW YORK—There were brief but pertinent notices in our newspapers late last week stating that for one whole session Sen. McCarthy had not made a single interruption or point of order.

The papers commented that it was the first session since the hearings began that he had failed to speak.

All I can say is it must have been a relief to all concerned, for the frequent interruptions and constant repetition of questions that had already been answered, but not to the Senator's satisfaction, must have been very irritating, as well as trying to the witnesses.

We may soon be reading of some startling people who have been or are being investigated for one reason or another. I have actually heard of two people during the past few days who have made up their minds to fight. They seem to have overcome a feeling of terror and helpfulness.

Both of them happen to have sufficient means to be able to make a defense, but it is a relief to know that there are even a few people who will not sit down under unfair accusations or intimidations and keep quiet because they are to frightened to speak out.

I am tired of the phrase which the Senator from Wisconsin coined, namely, "Fifth Amendment communist." There is no such thing, except as the Senator has created it. That particular article of the Constitution was put there as a safeguard for the people, and some of our best lawyers have explained how one might easily invoke the Fifth Amendment for a number of perfectly good reasons without being a communist.

Therefore, I think it is very wrong to use this phrase to smear people when you have no proof of why they have actually invoked the Fifth Amendment.

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I see that the United Nations is being petitioned by certain islands in the Marshall Islands group against the use of that area for any more hydrogen bomb tests. That would seem to be a reasonable feeling, since they have borne the brunt of so many tests already. It is a good thing that these little islands have a place where they can send their petitions, and I hope they will be heard with care, and an effort will be made to meet their objections.

There is one over-all objection that deserves consideration, however. That is that we know now that we have the bomb that can destroy civilization rather quickly, so it might be well to give some thought to how we can prevent this destruction. While keeping this invention in the background for safety's sake, we must still move forward in sharing the atomic secrets for peaceful purposes.

G.L.R.-8

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Wash. Post and Times Herald
Wash. News
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N. Y. Herald Tribune
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