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Communist-Inspired Type of Martyrdom

By ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

EVERYONE was shocked here on Monday afternoon when news came that a group of Puerto Rican terrorists had fired on members of the House.

They apparently made no attempt to escape, so it was the type of martyrdom for a cause which is popular with communist-inspired groups.

These people seem to belong to the same group that tried to kill President Truman in 1950, and it is difficult to understand why they have not been followed and watched ever since. There must have been some laxity on the part of the FBI. The guards at the Capitol, it seems to me, should have been alerted not to allow any suspicious characters to enter the galleries of the House.

One hopes that those who were shot will recover quickly.

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MR. KEY of the State Department made an address on Monday afternoon to the plenary meeting of the AAUN conference in Washington, which I am attending. In the evening, a really very interesting session addressed by four excellent speakers kept the entire audience listening until 10:30 o'clock.

First the UN reporter for the Christian Science Monitor, Mr. Fry, spoke and then, the UN reporter for the New York Times, Mr. Hamilton. They were followed by Sen. Alexander Wiley of Wisconsin, who gave an excellent speech supporting the UN, and finally ex-Sen. Graham stirred everyone present by a speech of real spiritual quality.

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THERE was an editorial in the Washington Post on Tuesday morning about the Executive's responsibility to his party, as regards Sen. McCarthy and his tactics. It is undoubtedly felt by the Republican Party that an open break with the Senator would divide the party and bring political disaster.

There is no question but that it is better for a party to be united, but if within the party there is an element which is evidently dangerous to the country it would seem to be essential for that party's future success that it remove that danger.

Neither the Republican nor the Democratic Party wins an election by carrying its own party voters alone. Increasingly, year by year, we have had elections in which people moved from support of one party to the other either because of individual candidates or individual issues. This is known as the independent vote, and I think it has assumed larger and larger proportions.

There are a great many people in this group today who look upon the issue posed by Sen. McCarthy and what is popularly known as "McCarthyism" as an issue which is concerned with the freedom of individual citizens.

In the editorial I mentioned, there are two sentences which should be carefully considered thruout our nation. They are: ". . . skillful demagog has persuaded Americans to fight each other instead of the enemy. In the process American institutions are being sabotaged and American moral fibers snapped."

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