Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tamm
Tracy
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Miss Gandy

Mrs. Roosevelt

Our Laws Are Good, but They No Longer Protect Us

By ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

NEW YORK—In spite of predictions to the contrary, we had a beautiful Saturday and Sunday in the country. Cold but clear and in the sun there were moments when you could almost imagine that spring was close at hand.

We had a very successful birthday celebration for Mary T. Norton and Miss Lorena Hickok. Their birthdays fall on the same day, and so for the past few years they have celebrated them here with me a number of times.

I think former Congresswoman Norton is perfectly remarkable. She insists that she is 79 years old, but nobody would ever know it by watching her. She sat with us Saturday night and listened to Adlai Stevenson's speech and was as keen—and interesting in her comments—as anyone in the room.

Old age which comes as gracefully as it has come to her is certainly nothing to be feared for she is more interesting and a more entertaining companion today probably than she was 40 years ago. She is lovable and kind and I am sure every member of her family adores her and she certainly has many, many friends. I feel it both an honor and a pleasure to be one of her friends.

* * *

IN the New York Times magazine on Sunday there was an article by John B. Oakes entitled "This is the real, the lasting damage." It talks for the first time very openly about the fear, prevalent today, of saying anything which may cause one to be called a communist. The fear has fallen on our public men, on our teachers, even on our ministers and certainly it has fallen on our young people.

To those of us who understand communism it is because it creates fear in people that we dislike it. Communism enslaves both the bodies and the minds of men. Because of the fear that we are creating at home, the same situation is devoping in what is supposed to be the land of the free and the home of the brave. We might almost as well be living under a totalitarian government for the effect is much the same as it would be if we did not have our freedoms guaranteed by law.

The laws are all there and they are all good but they no longer protect us. I do not belittle the harm that undetected communists might create in this country but something has happened to us when people who are not communists are still afraid of being called communists, so some of the things said in this article we should take to heart.

* * *

HERE is a quote to remember: "The only antidote, therefore, to the influence these people exert (those who would frighten us) is a determination not to be frightened by them. There is no trick to recovering the full expression of freedom. But it requires constant exercise of that privilege, for nothing atrophies from disuse so quickly. Americans in their hearts know this, and despite momentary aberrations they have always come back to it.

NOT RECORDED
191 MAR 16 1954

Times-Herald
Wash. Post
Wash. News
Wash. Star
N.Y. Herald Tribune
N.Y. Mirror

Date: