Mrs. Roosevelt Decries 'Fear' of Communism

Tells Professional Women It Leads Many to Label New Ideas as Dangerous

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt deplored yesterday "the great fear of communism" she said is widespread in this country because it has led many persons to label all new ideas as dangerous. Mrs. Roosevelt addressed the afternoon session of the first day's meeting of the board of directors of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., at the Savoy Plaza Hotel. The conference will continue through Thursday. The 300 delegates and observers include 100 women from nineteen countries.

Referring to the fear of communism, Mrs. Roosevelt, who is a delegate to the United Nations Assembly and former chairman of the Human Rights Commission, said, "We had to build our strength so rapidly in this country that we had to tell the people why they should be afraid of communism."

This was perhaps necessary, she continued, but she said she wished that time could have been taken "to educate the people" in the values they were fighting for.

Today, she charged, many persons "label anything they don't like as Communist." "This is dangerous," she said, "because people begin to be afraid to think." She pointed out that "our country and all countries have been built by people with new ideas."

Mrs. Roosevelt said she was convinced that only a national leadership "with strong moral and spiritual convictions is going to carry us to victory." "You can never win by being against something," she added. "You have to be for something."

At the luncheon Miss Jane Todd, New York State Deputy Commissioner of Commerce, presented a basket of gifts made in industries operated by women to the president of the federation, Dame Caroline Haslett, an electrical engineer, of Great Britain. Speakers at the afternoon session included, besides Mrs. Roosevelt and Dame Haslett, Dr. Lillian Gilbreth, efficiency engineer of Montclair, N. J., and Miss Margaret P. Aylesman, Toronto attorney.

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