MY DAY

It's Easy for the Reds to Point Out Our Failures

By ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

WEDNESDAY morning in New York I was busy up to the minute I took the 12:30 train to Worcester, from where I was taken to Fitchburg to speak for the Parent-Teacher Association on Human Rights.

PTA groups thruout the country have been making a great effort to bring to people's attention questions of interest in UN. The acceptance of the Declaration of Human Rights last year has given people time to study it and to come to a clearer understanding of where this has a bearing on the internal situation of each country. It is, nevertheless, an international document which sets standards and voices aspirations for peoples all over the world, some of whom have never known a day of freedom.

• • •

WE in the United States tend sometimes to think of international questions as they concern our own particular problems and we tend to believe that the conditions of all nations, and the desires of all peoples coincide with our own. This is something we must remember to check rather carefully with ourselves, for different conditions bring different conceptions of what rights and freedoms should be. The American way of life may not always be the way desired by other nations.

It is true, however, failure on our part to live up to what we have declared are the rights and freedoms and protections of all people under our democratic government has a bearing on our standing in the international situation. It is easy, for instance, for the Communists to point to our failures and to say, "These are the shortcomings of democracy." They won't simply say, "These are the shortcomings of a few people in the United States.

• • •

THAT is why for us it is important to check our national standards and practices, not only in words, but in deeds.

The whole world can know of our failures, and it is much more difficult for us to make the world understand our efforts and the great successes we have achieved in past years. This is due to the fact that our successes lie in actually bringing to reality words which we have preached for many years and up to now nobody has bothered to find out if these words were being lived up to. Now it is valuable to the Communist cause to point out where our words and actions are at variance.

On Thursday I was in Worcester at the North High School, again speaking on human rights. I returned to New York City early in the evening and caught the midnight train to Washington. Friday morning I had breakfast with my old friends, the Adolph Millers. I had expected to be with my son and daughter-in-law but it was not possible.

Tolson ✓
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Harbo
Mohr
Tele. Room
Nease
Gandy

6 1 K -1

NOT RECORDED
42 JAN 17 1950

Page

Times-Herald
Wash. Post
Wash. News 9
Wash. Star
N.Y. Mirror

Date: JAN 7 1950

JAN 18 1950