Mrs. Roosevelt Raps Young Communist League Methods

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt thinks American and Russian youth can find a basis for understanding—but not through organizations such as the Young Communist League.

Mrs. Roosevelt assailed the League in one of two speeches she made at youth meetings in New York over the weekend.

She reminded her young audience that the way to seek change in a democracy is within the framework of that democracy.

Then, of the Young Communist League, she said:

"I believe much of the opposition to this group is based on their evident desire to accomplish their aims in a different way."

Intolerable

"I believe that in this country this is intolerable. I believe you can never work with a group that says one thing and does another.

"But I believe that we—and you—can find a basis for understanding with the youth of Soviet Russia."

Mrs. Roosevelt assailed the Communist organization at the first national conference of the United States Student Assembly, in the Young Women's Christian Association Bld., 610 Lexington Ave.

"When people are working together," she said, "they must be honest; they must tell exactly where they stand and what they represent."

'Packing' Charged

In the course of the Assembly, a student officer had accused the Young Communist League of attempting to take over the conference by packing it with delegates sent from graduate schools. A resolution to seat graduate students was defeated.

Mrs. Roosevelt said League members had the right to voice their opinions, but that if they were to continue to live in this country they must obey the country's laws and not advocate overthrow of the Government by force.

In another address, in a city-wide youth course sponsored by the Society for Ethical Culture, 2 West 64th St., Mrs. Roosevelt was asked by a young woman in the audience to say how she felt about young people joining "radical organizations."

Mrs. Roosevelt's comment was:

"It never hurts to take the stand you really believe in. There is no reason why you shouldn't join a radical organization if you are sure you believe in the things the organization stands for and are willing to stand up and let the world know that you believe in them."

She also defined her views of the word "liberal" as applied to an organization.

It means a group, she said, "which goes about its work on a democratic basis, which allows its membership to express freely, and which abides by the will of the majority."

Eleanor Roosevelt

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