

Puerto Ricans Face Swift Indictment For Shooting

By WILLIAM F. ARBOGAST

WASHINGTON (AP) — Officials moved today toward swift indictment of four Puerto Rican fanatics who shot and wounded five congressmen in a wild affray Monday. At the same time Capitol Hill pondered new security proposals.

Congressional leaders were generally agreed that unofficially, that no airtight precautions can be devised.

The five house members killed by the fusillade from the visitors' gallery apparently were recovering, although one of them, Rep. Alvin M. Bentley (R-Mich.), remained in critical condition. A bullet pierced his lung, stomach and liver.

Dr. George Cline, a specialist who flew here from Cleveland to examine the 35-year-old congressman, gave him a better than even chance to recover.

Bentley was said to be resting more comfortably at Casualty Hospital early today. His pulse, abnormally fast earlier, was reported to have slowed down. Doctors said the danger was from complications which might develop from his internal injuries, particularly to his liver.

RECOVERING
The others wounded, Representatives Clifford Davis (D-Tenn.), Ben F. Jensen (R-Iowa), George Fallon (D-Md.) and Kenneth Roberts (D-Ala.) were less seriously hurt and are recovering satisfactorily.

U.S. Dist. Atty. Leo Rover arranged to present the cases of the four Puerto Ricans to a federal grand jury today, estimating it would require no more than a day.

Oddly, Rover, then a practicing attorney here, was assigned by the court to defend Oscar Collazo when he and another Puerto Rican Nationalist, tried to assassinate former President Truman in 1950. Collazo was sentenced to die, but Truman later commuted the sentence to life.

The four involved in Monday's incident are charged with assault with intent to kill. There are charges for each of the five House members shot down, making the maximum penalty upon conviction 75 years in prison—15 years on each count.

Those held are Mrs. Lolita Lebron, 34-year-old divorcee and acknowledged leader of the quartet; Rafael C. Miranda, 25; Andres F. Cordero, 29; and Irving Flores

Rodriguez, 28, all of New York City.

Their avowed purpose in invading the House with pistols and shooting wildly was to call attention to the Nationalists' campaign for Puerto Rican independence—a cause which Puerto Ricans have rejected at the polls several times.

Julio Pinto Gandia, head of the New York wing of the Nationalist party, referred to the four as "patriots" in a statement issued there, and he added: "We shall do all in our power to aid and defend our four compatriots in their hour of trial."

But Gov. Luis Munoz Marin of Puerto Rico flew here hurriedly and told President Eisenhower all Puerto Ricans protest "this outrage." He told newsmen he had no proof Communists were involved but that "the behavior of these people" indicated a possibility of Communist activity.

In New York, Mrs. Lebron's employer, Harold Werner, said FBI agents had asked his aid in keeping a watch on the woman.

"Just last week," he said, "two FBI agents visited me to warn me that Mrs. Lebron was under close surveillance because of her activities as a suspected Communist. . . . They told me she had been watched for a long time by the FBI."

FBI officials declined comment. Chicago FBI chief Guy Bannister said Mrs. Lebron's brother, Gonzalo Lebron, 30, is under surveillance. He added there is no evidence that he had any connection with the shooting. The Sun-Times quoted Lebron as saying he fears "FBI arrest at any moment."

TIGHTER SECURITY
Congressional leaders wrestling with the problem of tighter security are reluctant to deprive harmless and interested tourists from an opportunity to watch Congress in action.

Temporary security regulations put into effect yesterday in Capitol Hill will remain in operation while an informal committee studies proposals for permanent measures.

About 20 additional Washington city police have been added to the regular Capitol police squad. Plainclothesmen have been assigned to remain in all sections of the congressional galleries. Visitors are no longer admitted to the galleries without a card signed by a member of Congress.

House Speaker Martin (R-Mass)



PUERTO RICAN FANATICS — These are the four Puerto Ricans, all from New York City, who are being held in connection with the shooting in the House chamber in which five Congressmen were wounded. Upper left, Lolita Lebron. Upper right, Rafael Cancel Miranda. Lower left, Andres Figueroa Cordero. Lower right, Irving Flores.

said a system will be worked out to permit groups of legitimate sightseers to spend short periods in the public galleries, under official escort, as they have in the past.

He said additional measures that have been suggested include installation of bullet-proof glass between the galleries and the railing overlooking the halls of Congress, and enlargement of the guard force.

Martin conceded it would be almost impossible to develop a fool-proof system to protect congressmen away from the Capitol.

CELEBRATION

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—About 9,000 people jammed huge Convention Hall last night to celebrate this famed resort's 100th birthday. The party was held on the eve of Atlantic City's birthday.

Solons Give Impressions Of Shooting

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some 250 House members were on the floor Monday afternoon when shots rang out from the gallery.

For a stunning moment, nobody could believe what was happening. Rep. Keating (R-NY) got the same reaction as many others:

New Rules For Sale Of Meat

SALEM (AP) — The State Agriculture Department announced new regulations Tuesday for retail sale of meats.

Under the new rules, fresh meats sold from self-service counters must be wrapped if the cold box is open.

All cut portions of hams, loaves or other smoked or prepared meats must be covered with transparent paper or a glass container.

The department also said it would try to make meat handlers wear clean clothing, and that it would maintain a careful check on the health of the handlers.

SECURITY PACT

TOKYO (AP) — Military and diplomatic sources said negotiators agreed Tuesday on the final military section of a U.S.-Japan mutual security agreement to strengthen Japan's defenses.

Some one must have set off firecrackers. But Keating's impression was a fleeting one. He was sitting next to Rep. Alvin M. Bentley (R-Mich.).

"Bentley dropped right at my feet," Keating said. "Then I dropped to duck the bullets." Rep. Wheeler (D-Ga.) also thought of firecrackers. He was lighting a cigarette at the rear of the chamber. He looked up to see a bullet hole 18 inches from his head, another bullet hitting two or three feet from the first.

"I fell to my knees and crawled out to the cloak room," said Wheeler.

PEACE TALKS OUT

MANILA (AP) — President Ramon Magsaysay Tuesday ruled out further negotiations with the Communist-led Huk rebels other than surrender on the government's terms. "There will be no cease-fire and no negotiations," the president declared.

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States To Handle Polio Vaccine

NEW YORK (AP)—The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has decided to let individual states announce the areas selected for tests of the newly developed polio vaccine.

The foundation said yesterday that state health authorities will announce the areas on a staggered basis, with first tests to begin this month. Original plans called for the foundation to name the test areas.

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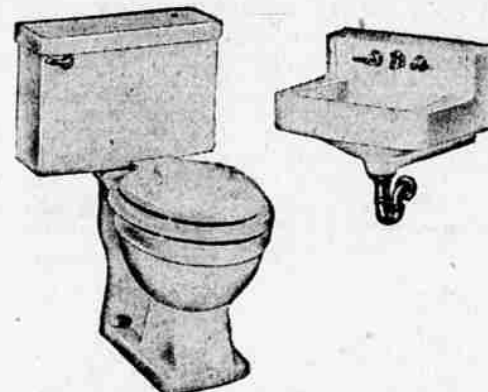
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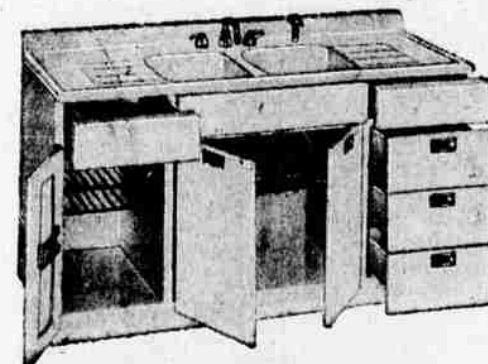
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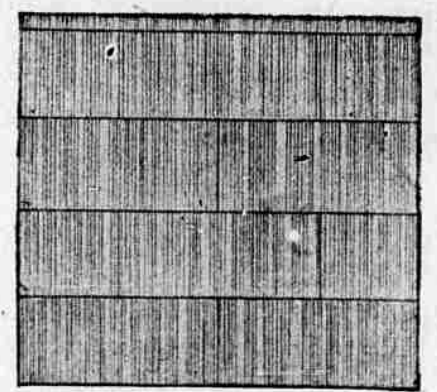
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