

PUERTO RICANS GET MAXIMUM TERMS

16 to 50 Years Given Woman,
3 Men Receive 25 to 75
in House Shooting

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, July 8—Four Puerto Rican terrorists were sentenced to maximum prison terms today for the shooting March 1 in the House of Representatives, in which five members of the House were wounded.

Mrs. Lolita Lebron, the woman who had been described as the ringleader, was sentenced to serve from sixteen years and eight months to fifty years. She had been convicted on five counts of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Her male companions, Rafael Cancel Miranda, who testified in court that he was the ringleader, Andres Figueroa Cordero and Irving Flores Rodriquez received sentences ranging from twenty-five to seventy-five years each.

They had been convicted on five counts charging assault with intent to kill and five counts charging assault with a dangerous weapon.

The sentences were imposed by Judge Alexander Holtzoff in Federal District Court. He said that the four deserved the maximum penalty for a "crime so heinous, so infamous, so daring and atrocious as to have shocked the conscience of the Nation."

The maximum penalty had been asked by Leo A. Rover, Federal Attorney, who told the court that "in the history of the country there was never a crime so heinous as this one."

"These four people came here armed to perpetrate an assault on Congress," Mr. Rover said. "They would repeat the crime if they had another opportunity."

Judge Holtzoff remarked that the defendants had shown no remorse for their "wicked and ruthless act that might have caused death" of many of the 240 members of the House who were on

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Associated Press

DRAW MAXIMUM SENTENCES: Four Puerto Rican terrorists received prison terms yesterday for shooting incident in House of Representatives. The three men involved, Rafael Cancel Miranda, left; Andres Figueroa Cordero, center, and Irving Flores Rodriguez, were sentenced to twenty-five to seventy-five years each. Lolita Lebron drew 16-50 years.

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the floor when the shooting began.

F. Joseph Donohue, principal defense attorney, asked Judge Holtzoff to take into consideration the motive of the Puerto Ricans. They had testified that their purpose was to stage a demonstration for the independence of Puerto Rico.

Mrs. Lebron made a brief address when asked by Judge Holtzoff if she had anything to say before sentence was imposed. Her voice rose as she proclaimed that she "did it for a great ideal." She said to the judge, "I ask God to forgive you and I forgive you, too." She became hysterical and incoherent and had to be supported by a deputy marshal.

Miranda told the court, through an interpreter, that "in our consciences we believe we are not guilty" and that their sentences were "part of our sacrifices and we are ready for what may come to us."

Cordero said that Miranda spoke for him. Rodriguez said he wanted to emphasize that "in my

concept there is no criminal act on my part."

The four Puerto Ricans, members of the Puerto Rican Nationalist party, came here from New York on March 1. In midafternoon they opened fire from a gallery of the House, spraying the chamber with bullets.

Representatives Alvin M. Bentley of Michigan and Ben F. Jensen of Iowa, Republicans, and Clifford Davis of Tennessee, George H. Fallon of Maryland and Kenneth A. Roberts of Alabama, Democrats, were wounded. Each has now returned to his legislative duties, but Representative Roberts still wears a brace on his leg and walks on crutches.

Under District of Columbia law a judge is required to impose both maximum and minimum sentences. The minimum must not exceed one-third of the maximum, but may be less. The Puerto Ricans must serve the minimum imposed by Judge Holtzoff before being eligible for parole.

Mrs. Lebron is 34 years old, Miranda 25, Cordero 29 and Rodriguez 28. Each will be more than 50 years old before they can be released from prison.