

Letters To The Editor

Bartlesville, Oklahoma
July 27, 1950

To The Editor:

At a recent meeting of the city commissioners, I made a personal protest against the new library ordinance. By means of this letter, I wish to make the protest public.

I told the commissioners that I did not like the ordinance because it puts too much power over the library in their hands. Centralization of authority is a dangerous thing whether in national, state or local government.

Acting on that ordinance, the commissioners recently fired all members of the library board and appointed an entirely new board. This action was taken in spite of the fact that the old board, in accordance with the request of the commissioners, had made a careful investigation of the library and had submitted an excellent report which satisfactorily answered the accusations of subversive material in the library.

Again acting on that ordinance, the commissioners, without even giving the new library board a chance to act, fired Miss Ruth Brown, who has been the trusted and respected head of the library for thirty years. She was dismissed without cause because the present or-

dinance gives the commissioners such power.

We do not need to be conquered in war by a totalitarian power to lose our liberty. Whenever any person in any community is denied the rights guaranteed to him under the Constitution, whenever the local authorities assume power which violates the principles of justice which are the very foundations of our American democracy, then all the people of that community have lost a portion of their liberty.

All the people of Bartlesville have lost some of their liberty if they allow the recent action of the city commissioners to go unchallenged.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. F. E. Rice.