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According to an anonymous citizen of Bartlesville, Okla., writing in the Nation, that city furnishes a splendid example of totalitarian thought and action infiltrating behind the lines to destroy American positions at home.

The writer said the city librarian, Miss Ruth Brown, has been summarily fired despite thirty-five years efficient service; and the city commissioners have supplanted the library board as direct administrators of the public library, all in order to censor its shelves.

The hubbub started when members of a citizens' committee appeared last winter at a meeting of the city commissioners to complain of "Subversive literature" in the library, including the Nation, the New Republic and Soviet Russia Today.

The library board made a thorough survey of the library's contents and finally refused to remove the Nation and the New Republic from its shelves, but approved the removal of Soviet Russia Today, on the ground that it isn't worth enough from the standpoint of interest and information to justify the space it had occupied.

At the meeting at which this report was discussed, the citizens committee added the Negro Digest and Consumers' Research to its list of allegedly subversive publications.

Later the city commissioners passed an ordinance taking over the library directly, fired the library board and named a new "advisory" one composed of the shelf-purgers and book-burners, fired Miss Brown - and removed the Nation and the New Republic from the shelves.

If correctly reported, it looks to us as though this is a victory of totalitarianism in the total warfare it incessantly wages against freedom either here or abroad, rather than for the "Americanism" which the sponsors of this intolerant and intolerable purge claim as their justification.