

# LIBRARIAN FIGHTS FOR JOB LOST OVER CRITICISM OF JOURNALS CHOSEN

Oklahoma Oil Town in  
Squabble About Con-  
trol of Reading Matter  
— Court Suit Filed in  
Firing.

By F. A. BEHYMER

A Staff Correspondent of the  
Post-Dispatch.

BARTLESVILLE, Okla. — Citi-  
zens of this oil-blessed city, count-  
ing their blessings one by one  
but weighing against them the  
value of their civil liberties, are



Miss Ruth  
Brown

waiting for the  
district court to  
say whether the  
City Commission  
can control the  
public library  
and exclude  
therefrom "sub-  
versive" publi-  
cations.  
Denied a de-  
cision by Judge  
James T. Ship-  
man, who dis-  
qualified him-  
self in deference to the divided  
sentiments of the community  
over the dismissal of the library  
board and discharge of Miss Ruth  
W. Brown, librarian, the defend-  
ers of civil liberties are strength-  
ening their position and prepar-  
ing to carry on "the Battle of  
Bartlesville" if the district court  
decision is against them. The  
question that, if necessary, they  
will carry to the higher courts  
is whether they shall have the  
right to read, without restrictions,  
such publications as the Nation  
and the New Republic. Over the  
question there is sharp dissension  
between city officials and the  
members of a "citizens' committee  
on the one hand and a defense  
committee of the friends of Miss  
Brown who are asking the court  
to reinstate her and the old li-  
brary board members who sup-  
ported her in her refusal to re-  
move such publications from the  
library shelves.

## Ousters Hesitate to Talk.

City officials and members of  
the "citizens' committee," al-  
though they are presumed to  
have at least the tacit support of  
the powerful Phillips Petroleum  
Corp. and the Cities Service Co.,  
don't like to talk about the civil  
liberties case. They are allergic  
to publicity as something that  
might hurt the town. There are  
indications that the high com-  
mand of the oil industry deplores  
the fuss that has been made over  
such a little issue as control of  
the public library.

Members of the defense com-  
mittee and others who have come  
to the help of Miss Brown talk  
freely about it, but on the other  
side shush is the  
word.

The City Com-  
mission, whose  
action has been  
challenged in the  
district court,  
is composed of  
Mayor E. S. Dun-  
away, who is in  
the abstract busi-  
ness; Milo L.  
Margenau, pub-  
lic relations man  
for the Cities



Mayor Dunaway

Service Co.; E. F. Kindsvater,  
manager of the engineering de-  
partment of the Cities Service  
Co.; Joe Henton, who runs a fill-  
ing station, and W. A. Forrest, a  
grocer. At the time when they  
passed an ordinance taking over  
control of the library they did not  
hold cards as patrons.

Mayor Dunaway is out of town.  
He has, however, placed himself  
on record in an oration that he  
delivered at a meeting of the  
City Commission on March 6, at  
which friends of Miss Brown  
were booed and heckled and  
called Communists. The mayor  
on that occasion dramatically  
poured oil on the troubled waters.

"These are times," he said,  
"that try men's souls and men's  
minds as they have never before  
been tried in the annals of our  
history. The whole world is in  
a state of confusion, engaged in

Continued on Page 11, Column 1.

ST. LOUIS, MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1950 — 18 PAGES — COMPLETE EDITION

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH