

Librarian Fights for Job Lost in Row on Magazines

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a titanic struggle between power-crazed totalitarian groups on the one hand and freedom-loving individuals on the other in a struggle which ultimately will determine whether our government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall continue to exist or be forever banished from the face of the earth and be succeeded by feudalism, absolute monarchy, Communism, Fascism, Nazism or some other totalitarian or authoritarian form of government."

That being the case, he suggested that the Library Board should make a further investigation and come back with a report at the next meeting of the commissioners.

Race Issue Also Raised.

About 40 men and women had turned up at a previous commission meeting. Mrs. C. S. Warren, pushed forward as spokesman, told former Mayor R. H. Hudson, since deceased, and the four commissioners about the dark doings at the library. The Nation, barred by the New York City Board of Education, was there. What was more, Miss Brown had been active in race relations. On that point she called as a witness Druggist Hull, who testified that on one occasion Miss Brown appeared at his lunch counter with two Negro women.

Hudson, said the drug store incident was Miss Brown's personal affair, and he thought, too, that the commission didn't have anything to do with how she ran the library, but suggested that a committee might take it up with the library board.

Russell Davis, president of the library board, called a meeting. The dissidents demanded that the offending publications be removed. The board members insisted that in the interest of balanced information they should be retained.

At the next meeting of the City Commission reports were made by the library board and the objectors, who called themselves a citizens' committee. That was when supporters of the library board and Miss Brown were booed, heckled and called Communists and Dunaway the new mayor, delivered his oration.

Library Bill of Rights.

When another meeting was held, the library board took its stand on the Library Bill of Rights of the Council of the American Library Association:

"There should be the fullest practicable provision of material presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times, international, national and local; and books or other reading matter of sound factual authority should not be proscribed or removed from library shelves because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval." Therefore, the "Nation" and the "New Republic" should be retained "as essential to effect that balance of differing viewpoints on controversial subjects which should characterize a good library."

The commissioners had nothing to say to that at the time, but at their next meeting they revoked the old ordinance and passed a new one giving them authority to fire the old library board, which was promptly done. That left Miss Brown up in the air. The new board might retain her if it saw fit. In view of her nearly 31 years of service it might be moved to do so. That was how it stood when Miss Brown met Mayor Dunaway on the street. He told her he and the commissioners wanted to talk with her at a private meeting. She met with them and expressed her willingness to answer all questions, but if they were of a personal nature she would like to have them in writing. She refused to answer questions that she considered of such a nature. She was asked if she had signed a loyalty oath. She said she had never seen one, but would sign one then and there. The commissioners did not have one handy. She was not a Communist, she declared. She agreed with the old board that the Nation and the New Republic were not subversive, but if the new board ordered them removed, she would remove them. She refused to define her attitude toward racial relations unless the questions were put in writing. That was when