33 Die

No Fireworks at Library Meeting

A report of the library board was read before a meeting of the city commission in the ball room of Civic Center last night before about 75 persons. Other reports read included a report of a citizens' committee which had investigated “subversive” literature in the city library, and a resolution expressing concern of the American Legion in the issue.

At the meeting, expected displays of tempers did not develop, as reports by all concerned were read, and that part of the meeting adjourned without opportunity for discussion of the “hot potato” issue of the library.

First report read was that of the library board, read by Russell Davis, president of the board.

In its report, the board quoted from the Library Bill of Rights, adopted by the council of the American Library association, June 18, 1948:

“As a responsibility of library service, books and other reading matter selected should be chosen for values of interest, information, of the community.

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 prescribed or removed from library shelves because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.”

The library board’s report continued: “It should be clearly understood that the board’s determination that any publication is suitable for inclusion in the city library does not imply approval or advocacy of the views expressed therein, whether by the board, or by its individual members. The board believes that a policy of selection which would confine the library’s contents to material consonant with the opinions of the board or any of its members, or of any other citizen or group of citizens in the community, would be subversive of the basic principles which differentiate the constitutional government of the United States from the governments of authoritarian states.”

Of specific publications to which reference was made in the report of the citizens’ committee, “The Nation,” and “The New Republic,” the board justified their presence in the local library by letters from both the Tulsa and Oklahoma City libraries. The board said these should be retained on the library’s subscription list. “Their retention, with other publications on the current list, is essential to effect that balancing of differing viewpoints on controversial subjects which should characterize a good library.”

Of “Soviet Russia Today,” another publication referred to in the citizens committee report as being “subversive,” the board said “... it is of little value and its retention cannot be justified in view of the space limitations under which the library is operating.”

The citizens committee report named four magazines, “Negro Digest,” “The Nation,” “Soviet Russia Today,” and “New Republic,” as being subversive and cited authority for their statements, as well as quoting from issues of the magazines.
This report pointed out that elimination of these magazines from the library would constitute no infringement on the right of the individual to subscribe to the publications in question. These should be eliminated from the library, the report said.

The committee members reported that they visited libraries in Ponca City, Coffeyville, Independence, Tulsa, Dewey and Sapulpa and that none of the libraries in those cities contained the publication, “Soviet Russia Today,” as did the Bartlesville city library.

Another publication considered “subversive” by the committee was “Consumer’s Reports.” The report was read by Mrs. Henryetta B. Wills, secretary of the committee.

An American Legion resolution expressing concern of that organization over the situation was read by Preston Gaddis. The resolution was signed by R. C. Schmidt, Commander of the Legion.
Dunaway Named Mayor, Margenau To City Council Post, Henton Vice-Mayor

Two positions, left vacant by the death of Mayor R. H. Hudson, were filled Thursday night at a meeting of the city commissioners.

COMMISSIONERS named E. S. Dunaway as mayor, and Milo Margenau as a member of the board. All appointments carried by unanimous vote. Joe Henton was named vice-mayor.

Dunaway moves directly into the post of chairman of the board, of mayor, which has been open since Hudson died last Friday. Henton replaces Dunaway as vice-mayor and Margenau was named to fill the fifth post on the board.

THE BOARD also officially appointed E. E. Jones to the position of city-manager, to replace Don Purinton, resigned. The motion states that Jones is to take office "as soon as he arrives in Bartlesville, if possible."

A resolution was also passed authorizing the city clerk to advertise publicly the sale of bonds, the money from which will be used to purchase rights-of-way for the re-routing of highway 60 within the city limits of Bartlesville. Notices are to be published in the Examiner-Enterprise on June 1 and June 8. Bonds will be put on sale June 13 at par value to those bidding the lowest rate of interest. IN ORDER TO facilitate the buying of property for the highway 60 right of way, the commissioners resolved to contact the local Real Estate Board and have the realtors instruct their appraisal committee to appraise the property on the proposed rights-of-way. City Commissioners will then study these appraisal reports, using them to determine offers they will make to property owners.

Earlier in the evening, the commissioners heard reports by the library board and a citizens committee. The library board's report defended its premise that no subversive literature is available at the library. The citizens' committee report intended to show that certain publications in the library might be considered subversive. Full texts of the reports will be published in the Examiner-Enterprise.

No immediate action was taken by the city commissioners on the question. According to Dunaway, the board "may discuss it at its June 5 meeting and take action on it."

Zoning of the new Crestview Addition, recently voted to be added to the city by the commissioners, was referred to the city zoning board at the meeting.
What might have been a stormy session of the board of city commissioners went off smoothly last night, and adjourned in time for the top of the third inning at the ball park.

Besides hearing reports concerning the library situation, a new mayor was elected, a new commissioner was appointed, and a new vice mayor elected.

With these items behind, the commissioners proceeded to make arrangements for sale of $75,000 in bonds voted last Tuesday, and agreed to appoint appraisers of the property which will have to be purchased for right-of-way for the highway improvements.

Alton Rowlands, city attorney, asked to make a prediction as to when construction would begin on the highway improvements, would only comment that "these things take time" but, he added, the construction season is short, so everything will be done to get things in order as soon as possible.

Chicago police put into effect "disaster plan five" to call every available man, squad car and ambulance to the scene of the street car-gasoline truck collision last night.

Called the "A-bomb plan," the emergency alarm is the highest established by police in a system that runs from one to five. Police said it is the alarm used for great emergencies, and would be the alarm sounded in the event of an a-bomb attack or other bomb attack.

As an example, when, the alarm was sounded, police and fire department radios ordered all available firemen, policemen and detective squads to the scene. These included 18 squadrons, a combination squad car and ambulance; 18 squad cars, 17 fire engines, five hook and ladder companies, four fire department-operated squad cars; four of the fire department's ten ambulances; the coroner, officials of the police and fire departments, and Mayor Martin H. Kennelly.

And more than 10,000 curious spectators jammed the streets making the efforts of the huge emergency very difficult.