

State Library Group Raps Citizens' Committee Action

Oklahoma City —(AP)— The intellectual freedom committee of the Oklahoma Library Association Monday condemned the Bartlesville citizens' committee for "an act of intolerance" in causing the firing of Miss Ruth

Brown, who had been head of the public library for nearly 31 years.

Miss Brown's discharge on the grounds of displaying "subversive" literature was termed a grave infraction of freedom of inquiry, thought and expression.

THE REPORT WAS prepared after four months' study by Ralph Hudson, state librarian; Miss Frances Kennedy, Oklahoma City university librarian; Mary Hays Marable, and Esther M. McRuer, president of the Oklahoma Library Association, *ex officio*.

"A self-named and self-constituted citizens' committee of Bartlesville appears to have instigated the difficulty" said the report and concludes that Miss Ruth Brown was unjustly and cavalierly discharged because of her private beliefs and because of her professional belief in free libraries. Had she been professionally unfit to be the librarian then Bartlesville is somewhat tardy in discovering it only after 30 years.

"WE FEEL THAT the public library was made the scapegoat for a misguided group. . . Miss Brown has suffered the loss of her position, but Bartlesville has suffered more. It has transgressed against the freedom of its library and thereby transgressed upon its distinction as an institution for free public information. It has denied its patrons free access to reading matter."

The report concludes with the admonition to Bartlesville to "rectify" the situation itself.