

Washington office.

Enterprise 7/26/1950

## City Library Chief Fired Tuesday Nite

Mrs. A. R. Riggs, assistant librarian for the past year, turned in her resignation to City Manager E. E. Jones at 1 p.m. Wednesday.

Mrs. Riggs said she was resigning "in sympathy with the discharge of Miss Ruth Brown," head librarian, Tuesday night by city commissioners.

The assistant librarian quit her job without notice, but the library was open Wednesday afternoon under supervision of the city manager's stenographer.

Miss Brown's discharge was effective immediately, although she will be kept on the city payroll until Aug. 31.

Miss Ruth Brown, city librarian who was dismissed by city commissioners at a special meeting Tuesday night, had "no comment" Wednesday morning when queried about her discharge.

**THE LIBRARIAN** indicated that she may have a statement Thursday on the commissioners' action to relieve her of her duties.

Miss Brown's services are to be terminated August 31, this year. The commissioners instructed her to turn over all library records to the library board on that date.

The meeting Tuesday night, at which Miss Brown was present, was attended by four of the five commissioners. Their decision has been concurred to by Commissioner E. F. Kindsvater who is at present recuperating from injuries suffered in an auto accident.

**COMMISSIONERS USED** their power of discharge granted them under the recent Library Ordinance passed in June. Under this ordinance, the library board may hire employees subject to the commissioners' approval. The commissioners also have the power of discharge of any employee at any time at their own discretion.

Library board Chairman E. R. Christopher reported Wednesday that it was not known when the board would meet to select a new librarian.

Examiner July 26, '50  
**City Library  
Chief Fired  
Tuesday Nite**

City commissioners, at a special meeting Tuesday night at Civic Center, unanimously approved the discharge of Mrs. Ruth Brown as librarian, according to an announcement by Mayor E. S. Dunaway and City Manager E. E. Jones. They said her services will be terminated as of August 31, this year. The commissioners instructed Mrs. Brown to turn over all library records to the library board on that date.

The meeting, at which Mrs. Brown was present, was attended by four of the five commissioners. Their decision had the prior approval of Commissioner E. F. Kindsvater, according to Jones. Kindsvater is presently recuperating from injuries suffered in an automobile accident.

The commissioners used their power of discharge granted them under the recent Library Ordinance passed last June. Under this ordinance, the library board may hire employees subject to the commissioners' approval; also the commissioners have the power of discharge of any employee at any time at their own discretion.

Mayor Dunaway said that a new librarian will be hired by the recently appointed library board.

## City Librarian Is Relieved of Duty By Commissioners

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Record 7/26/50

Miss Ruth Brown, Bartlesville city librarian for 35 years, was relieved of her duties by the city commission in a meeting held in Civic Center last night.

Official statement of the city commission follows:

"As a result of the board's interview with Miss Ruth Brown, librarian, this evening it was unanimously decided that she be relieved of her duties forthwith and that her employment by the city be terminated as of August 31, 1950, and further that she be instructed to deliver all records of the library to the library board."

E. R. Christopher, chairman of the library board said the board had not discussed a possible successor to Miss Brown as librarian.

Miss Brown, reached at her home late last night said, "I am not ready to make a statement until I know a little more about what the charges are."



Examiner July 27th, 1950

## City Library Still Open; Miss Brown Has Statement

The city library will continue to stay open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., it was announced Wednesday by E. R. Christopher, chairman of the library board.

**DESPITE THE** discharge Tuesday night of Miss Ruth Brown, librarian, by the city commissioners, and the resignation of Mrs. A. R. Riggs, assistant librarian, Wednesday, the library will function with substitute workers and interested women of the city to help, Christopher said, until permanent personnel can be obtained.

This policy was decided on at an informal meeting of the new library board Wednesday night at Civic Center, at which City Manager E. E. Jones was present.

**MRS. RIGGS SAID** in explanation of her resignation that she was quitting "in sympathy with the discharge of Miss Brown."

The following statement by Miss Brown, relative to her discharge Tuesday, was released Wednesday:

**"I HAVE NOT BEEN** advised by the City Commissioners of

the reasons for termination of my employment as City Librarian. Neither during my interview with the City Commissioner on July 25, nor at any other time, have the Commissioners, the City Manager, or any other person told me that my services as City Librarian have been unsatisfactory. I believe, as do many others, that my dismissal is attributable to certain of my personal opinions and outside activities which are distasteful to members of the Board of City Commissioners.

I have always believed that discrimination on account of race, creed, or color is contrary to democratic and Christian principles; and I have tried to live as a Christian in a Democracy in accordance with this belief. This has in no way interfered with my duties as City Librarian; for the recently discharged Library Board found my work completely satisfactory. The newly appointed Library Board has given me no reason to believe they have found it otherwise."