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July 27th, 1950.

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Mrs. J. R. Dale,
Miss Lucy Ann Babcock,
Oklahoma Library Commission,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dear Mrs. Dale and Miss Babcock:

As you will note I am no longer able to write to you on the stationery of the Bartlesville Public Library. The City Commissioners passed a new library ordinance with an emergency clause, their customary practice, and appointed on July 10th an entirely new board. The new ordinance places control of the library in their hands, the board being a mere figurehead, and approval of library content and personnel is in the hands of the commissioners, a very poor practice.

I had no personal regrets at the ending of this phase of my community service, being hopeful that this action would be all and that the present personnel of the library would be undisturbed. However, I am sorry to report that the Commissioners passed a resolution Tuesday night after an interview with Miss Brown agreeing to "relieve" her of her duties at once. Newspaper reports give every indication that this action was determined before the meeting. In view of 31 years of loyal service she is to be paid her salary to the end of August! Mrs. Riggs, our First Assistant-Librarian, resigned in sympathy yesterday morning, and several student assistants have indicated they intend doing the same. The library is being kept open by the City Manager's secretary.

The members of the previous Board, who have been trying to counsel Miss Brown, have suggested that she write immediately to the new President of the American Library Association. He discussed this matter with her at Norman and

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asked that she keep him fully informed.

Various actions have been suggested and I hope the community will be sufficiently aroused to practical and constructive behavior. . If I can answer any questions or supply newspaper clippings or other material, please feel free to call upon me.

Sincerely,

R. W. Davis

RWD/s

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City Library Still Open; Miss Brown Has Statement

One active and one retired school teacher will continue to operate the city library from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. until permanent personnel can be obtained. Miss Virginia Lasley, one of the school teachers reported Thursday.

Miss Lasley will serve as temporary librarian and her assistant will be Miss Thelma Zinn, presently a teacher at Central high school.

Miss Lasley is a former teacher at College-High and Central High school. She reported that she and Miss Zinn were secured by the library board to work in the library.

The two women were named in order to allow the library to continue functioning despite the discharge Tuesday night of Miss Ruth Brown, former librarian, by city commissioners and the resignation of Mrs. A. R. Riggs, assistant librarian Wednesday.

The policy of temporary personnel in the library until permanent employees can be appointed 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."

Bartlesville Enterprise
July 27, 1950