

Private Censors Ban Magazines

Civil liberties are under severe attack in Bartlesville, Okla., where censorship of the public library's reading matter has occurred apparently because of the librarian's interest in an interracial program.

Joining to form a "citizens committee" were members of a Republican women's club, a small group of American Legionnaires, and local chapter members of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the Confederacy.

They directed their attention first to the Bartlesville YWCA because during recent years it had tried to institute a limited interracial program. They next issued a complaint against Ruth W. Brown, the public librarian for 25 years, because of her work in the interracial field and because the library had what they considered subversive literature—publications such as *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, and *Soviet Russia Today*.

The library board conducted an investigation, then reported that the Bartlesville library was following standards of the American Library Association. Not content, the citizens committee continued to label the magazines subversive.