

THE
BARTLESVILLE
1951

VOTER

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EDITORIAL

During the past several months, Bartlesville has seen fit to discharge from its service a person who during her 30 year tenure probably helped to educate more people than any school has done because though many people do not finish school, they read books if they are at all able to read.

We think Miss Ruth Brown the person discharged for "insubordination" should be reinstated.

Miss Brown's alleged "insubordination" came after city commissioners took matters into their own hands after discharging a library board to which Miss Brown was directly answerable. Miss Brown told the commission that she would answer any questions about the library orally but that answers to questions they might put about personal belief would be in writing only. She was then said to be "insubordinate".

We have been a friend of Miss Brown and the daughter she adopted and reared. We give her much credit for helping further our education because she was always to make suggestions about what would be good for us to read when we were at a more tender age.

We may not believe just the way she does on personal matters but that is as it should be: under the ideals of the Republic and under our Constitution we have the right to do what we like and think as what we like so long as we do not interfere with the rights of others.

Someone on the Amos and Andy radio show said that RFC meant "reach for the cash" when they were discussing the current probe into RFC activities in Washington City.

This mimeographed sheet was produced by Joe Barber in the interest of better government.

Questions To Candidates

The matter of running the city's business is no child's play. It is a business as surely as any other kind of business is business. Ask the various candidates to give answers to the following questions and you will perhaps find out what kind of men you will have running your city business if they are elected.

1. Do you believe a commissioner should attempt to discharge an employee of the city without first consulting with the city manager and department head or majority of city board?

2. Do you believe a mayor or vice-mayor should assume authorities generally delegated to a city manager without the consent of a majority of commissioners?

3. Do you believe an offender of the law should be treated as a human whatever his race, color or religion while in custody of police chiefs, police, detectives or other special officers?

4. Do you believe that the duty of protecting the city is more vital than the duty of keeping the parking meters filled and that some method could be worked out whereby outside trade would not be discouraged by parking meters?

5. Do you believe that local men who have had service with the city should be promoted wherever possible to better jobs as they become open?

6. Do you believe that orders to employees should go through channels, that is through superintendents, foremen, etc or do you believe the city manager or mayor should go direct to the employee without consulting constituted channels?

OPEN LETTER

Sometime ago it was suddenly discovered that literature said to be subversive was being circulated by the local Public Library. The literature was taken from the stacks and placed under restriction while a decision was made as to what should be done with it. Finally it was decided to keep it available to library patrons under certain conditions.

Though I have been pretty much occupied with other things and have not used the Public Library much in the last few years, I resent the fact that any local person or persons should be allowed to censor material supposed to be available from the Library because I doubt that any local person or persons have the knowledge necessary to deduce from anything as to whether it is subversive or not because political and economic theories change so fast that one is generally at a loss to try to follow "the line". To illustrate: Many of the then abhorred Socialist Platform planks of 1912 are present day U.S. laws having been passed by recent sessions of Congress. We know that the old line Democrats have recently been voting Republican because they say the present Republican platforms more closely resemble the older Democratic theories. The Republican line has changed to a large extent since the party was founded. In 1854 it was considered quite radical. The 1920 model Communism which said "Workers of the world, unite! Forward to the world revolution" has been displaced by another concept. Lenin died and Trotsky was exiled and later was assassinated because he was too militant.

In my opinion, our country has as much to fear from its own political rottenness as it has to fear from outside political theories. Remember the 5 percenters, deep freezes etc and read the recent Kefauver committee reports and see why.

Joe Barber