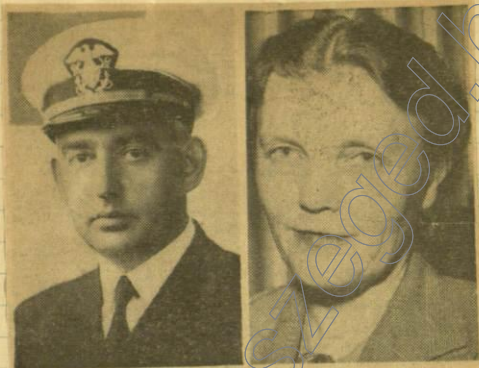


BRUNAUER Stephen, engineer
explosives expert



Harris & Ewing Associated Press Photo
STEPHEN BRUNAUER MRS. BRUNAUER
Accused by Senator McCarthy of pro-Communist leanings

Died
1959
←
(age 57)

1950
March
13

B. married
Prof. Dalma
Hungary, 1961
Feb.

Esther Calkin Brunauer, 48, assistant director of policy liaison, United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organization [UNESCO]; she has held the rank of minister; state department salary, \$9,706; first assistant to Alger Hiss, convicted perjurer-spy, at the San Francisco conference in 1945.

Chicago
Tribune,
A.P. + all
papers

Stephen Brunauer, Hungarian born husband of Esther, former navy commander, now a civilian employe in the explosives research division, navy bureau of ordnance.

Urges Immediate Action

McCarthy urged the subcommittee to take "immediate action" in the case of Mr. and Mrs. Brunauer. Their presence in the government, he indicated, constituted a security risk of the gravest proportions and he offered to supply the investigators with additional information in executive session.

A government investigative report dated Sept. 15, 1947, stated that Mrs. Brunauer was a Communist and recently had contacted a member of a soviet espionage ring, McCarthy said. Her



husband was reported as a close friend and collaborator of Noel Field, known Communist who disappeared behind the iron curtain in 1948, and whose activities figured in the Alger Hiss trial. Brunauer was said to have admitted he was a Communist party member, McCarthy said.

Presided at Meeting

In outlining the case of Mrs. Esther Brunauer, McCarthy said she presided at a Washington meeting of the American Friends of the Soviet Union in 1936. She was a signer in 1938 of a call for the annual meeting of the American Youth congress. Both organizations have been stamped subversive by the attorney general.

"She was employed in March, 1944, as division assistant in the division of internal security, state department," McCarthy testified. "A report dated July 16, 1947, states that in 1941 both this individual and her husband were members of the Communist party."

Another 1947 report advised that she had been recently contacting a member of the soviet espionage ring.

"This individual's husband admitted having been a member of the Communist party. I asked the committee immediately to investigate whether Stephen Brunauer has been the subject of constant investigation by the government agencies over a period of 10 years. I am prepared to produce competent witnesses who will testify to the importance of immediate action in this matter."

"No Security Risk"

The state department announced that Mrs. Brunauer had been "thoroly processed by the President's loyalty and the department's security programs" and it was satisfied that she was loyal and "no security risk." It mentioned that Adm. William H. Standley, retired, former ambassador to Russia, and former Sen. Joseph Ball (R., Minn.) had vouched for her loyalty.

The navy department at first merely confirmed that Brunauer had held the rank of commander during the war, serving in the bureau of ordnance. He is now a civilian employe in the explosives research division of the navy bureau of ordnance, the navy said.

Later, the navy said in a statement that Brunauer had been "thoroly investigated and an administrative decision was made that there was not sufficient evidence to warrant Dr. Brunauer's being charged with disloyalty."



Contributions Cited

"During the war and later as a civilian employe, Dr. Brunauer has made noteworthy contributions in the field of explosives. He is regarded as an eminent expert and his ability in the field of research is highly regarded."

Brunauer told reporters he was not a close friend of Noel Field but had known him in the early 30s and last saw him three years ago at the home of Lawrence Duggan. Duggan is a former state department official who died in a plunge from a New York office building late in 1948.

Brunauer said he had never been a member of the Communist party but from 1923 to 1927 had been a member of the Hungarian section of the Young Workers league of New York, "which advocated communistic principles." He remarked that he had received a navy commendation and the Order of the British empire for his work in the field of explosives during the war.

Mrs. Brunauer indignantly denied the charges to reporters and said she would ask the committee for a chance to testify. She said

she had never been a Communist and was "a loyal American."