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Scientist Brunauer And Wife Suspended From Federal Jobs

Navy Initiates Action Against Couple Called Reds by McCarthy

Stephen Brunauer, Navy scientist and explosives expert, and his wife, Mrs. Esther Caukin Brunauer, a State Department official, were suspended from Government service today.

Both were the targets of pro-Communist charges by Senator McCarthy, Republican, of Wisconsin, last year.

The Navy Department acted first to suspend Mr. Brunauer who held the rank of commander during the war and later assumed his status as a civilian scientist.

A short time later the State Department announced suspension of Mrs. Brunauer, who serves as a liaison officer with the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Based on Navy Action.

First word of the suspensions came from the State Department.

Carlisle H. Humelsine, Deputy Undersecretary of State for Administration, announced "suspension of Mrs. Esther Caukin Brunauer because of information received that the Department of the Navy had suspended her husband, Stephen Brunauer, under Navy Department loyalty and security procedures."

Mr. Humelsine said that Mrs. Brunauer's suspension from the State Department was "taken automatically pending the outcome of the Department of the Navy action concerning Mr. Brunauer."

He emphasized that Mrs. Brunauer's suspension results from action taken by the Navy in regard to her husband and not from any information which has been received concerning her."

Goes On Annual Leave.

Mrs. Brunauer is being permitted to take annual leave during her suspension, which became effective at 10 a.m. today.

The Navy Department did not make public the reasons for its action against Mr. Brunauer and the terms of his suspension are not known.

Senator McCarthy, when he leveled his charges against the Brunauers, directed his heaviest fire at Mrs. Brunauer. He accused her of having engaged in Communist front activities "suffi-

cient to seriously question her security status."

He asked the Senate to investigate to determine whether Mr. Brunauer is an "admitted Communist."

The State Department immediately announced it was satisfied that Mrs. Brunauer was "loyal to the United States and does not constitute a security risk."

Defended Her Background.

A few days later Mrs. Brunauer appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee investigating Senator McCarthy's charges with a spirited defense of her own and her husband's background.

"I am a loyal American," she told the committee. "I am not a Communist and never have been a Communist. I have never engaged in Communist activities."

She told the committee, however, that her husband had come under Communist influences when he first came to this country from Hungary at the age of 18.

Left Red Group in 1927.

Her husband, Mrs. Brunauer told the committee, was "eager for American companionship, but this was largely denied him. His need for friends and companions was filled, in his first years here, by a group of young people of similar national origin who spoke the same language, and these people, unfortunately were largely Communists."

Mrs. Brunauer said the Communists brought Mr. Brunauer into the Hungarian section of the Young Workers' League, but that he dropped out of it in 1927.

"He has not been a member of any Communist group since that time," she added in her testimony before the Senate committee. "By 1932 he had been denounced by the Communists as a deserter from their cause."

Worked for University Women.

In her appearance before the Senate committee, Mrs. Brunauer presented a number of letters defending her husband against charges of disloyalty.

One of the letters was from former Senator Ball, Republican, of Minnesota, and a neighbor of the Brunauer family.

Senator Ball described Mr. Brunauer as "perhaps the most violently anti-Communist person I know."

"I am convinced the accusations are completely erroneous," Senator Ball's letter continued. "Both of them (the Brunauer's), are most strongly opposed to the ideology and practices of communism."

Mrs. Brunauer, who was born in Jackson, Calif., on July 7, 1901, joined the State Department in 1944. Before that she had been employed for seven years by the American Association of University Women as an associate in international education.

