

Brunauer

1952 Aug 2

NEW U.S. POST TO WOMAN WHO QUIT STATE JOB

Mrs. Brunauer Barred From Secret Data

BY WILLARD EDWARDS

The departure from the State department of a top woman official, accused by Sen. McCarthy (R) of Wisconsin of Communist



front connections in 1950, and her prompt rehiring by another government branch, came to light yesterday.

Mrs. Esther Caukin Brunauer, 50, has left her \$9,800 a year post as assistant director of policy liaison to the United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organization, after being barred from positions where she had access to secret and restricted information, it was disclosed.

The Library of Congress, headed by Luther H. Evans, has placed her on the payroll, at an undisclosed salary, for a four-month period beginning Aug. 4. Evans said Mrs. Brunauer had been "completely and unequivocally cleared on grounds of loyalty" although she had been ruled unavailable for employment in "so-called sensitive positions."

Not in "Sensitive Category"

Evans said Mrs. Brunauer's position in the Library of Congress is not in the "sensitive category." She will work in a division dealing with publications of international organizations. Her job will expire, it was noted, before Congress, which depends upon the library for legislative and speech-making material, will reconvene in January.

Mrs. Brunauer was one of the first individuals named by Sen. McCarthy early in 1950 when he began his expose of communism in the State department. McCarthy testified before the Senate investigating committee headed by Sen. Tydings (D) of Maryland, that a 1947 security report named both Mrs. Brunauer and her husband Stephen, a Navy explosives expert, as members of the Communist party in 1941.

McCarthy listed several Communist front connections of the Brunauers and revealed their close friendship with Noel Field, a former State department official, who figured prominently in the trial of Alger Hiss, convicted perjury-spy. Field's disappearance behind the Iron Curtain, shortly before the Hiss trial is still a mystery.

Admitted Link With Field

Both Brunauers indignantly swore they had never been Communists but conceded that Brunauer had been a member in New York City of the Hungarian section of the Young Workers league, a Communist labor organization. They also admitted their connections with Field. Mrs. Brunauer under cross-examination, admitted a visit to their home in 1947 of a Communist member of Hungary's delegation to the U.N. but said her husband rejected the agent's proposal of cooperation with the new Communist regime in Hungary.

Mrs. Brunauer, formerly a high ranking member of the American Association of University Women, mustered powerful support in her defense against the McCarthy charges. Among the character witnesses who rushed to her defense was Milton S. Eisenhower, president of Kansas State college, who had served with her in the UN.

Eisenhower, a brother of Gen. Eisenhower, G.O.P. candidate for President, wrote Sen. Tydings that it was not only "erroneous" but "un-American" to call Mrs. Brunauer a Communist sympathizer.

Another supporter of Mrs. Brunauer was Sen. Benton (D) of Connecticut, who had served with her when he was assistant state secretary. Benton became the administration's hatchet-man in the campaign to discredit McCarthy.

Held Thoroughly Investigated

The State department declared that Mrs. Brunauer had been thoroughly investigated and cleared of all suspicion of disloyalty. She remained on the payroll until the eventual ruling, disclosed yesterday, that she should be barred from access to secret files.

The navy stated that Brunauer, employed in the bureau of ordnances, was renowned as an explosives expert and had received the order of the British Empire for his work during the war. An investigation, the navy reported cautiously, had resulted in "an administrative decision that there was not sufficient evidence to warrant Brunauer's being charged with disloyalty."

Brunauer also kept his job until he resigned after reports of new loyalty investigations being initiated in the department.

1952 Nov 22

Ousted State Aide Looks to New Regime

By the Associated Press

Mrs. Esther Caukin Brunauer, ousted State Department employe, said yesterday she hopes the Eisenhower Administration will look "fearlessly and thoroughly" into what she called the deplorable unfairness of the Government's loyalty-security program.

Mrs. Brunauer said she was notified June 16 that she had been "separated" for no stated reason from her job. She was assistant director of policy liaison to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization. She now has a temporary job at the Library of Congress.

A State Department official said in August that she had left her job and that she was considered a security risk in handling secret information. He said there had been no findings of disloyalty.]

Mrs. Brunauer and her husband, Dr. Stephen Brunauer, who was with the Navy Department, were accused by Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R. Wisc. in 1950) of pro-Communist sympathies. Dr. Brunauer, a scientific and explosives expert, admitted having associated with Communists 25 years earlier, but declared he was intensely loyal to the United States. He was suspended and resigned his job in 1951.

Mrs. Brunauer, in a statement yesterday, said:

"My employment in the Department of State never endangered the security of the United States, and would not do so if I worked there the rest of my life. I was not charged with having given classified information to unauthorized persons; I did not do so, and would not do so under any provocation. As to my loyalty, not even a 'technicality' could be found on which to base even a 'reasonable doubt'."

"I was given the impression, very indirectly, that the State Department's action was based on the theory that because the Navy Department had suspended my husband on 'security risk' charges, I must surely be a security risk."

"As a loyal American, with a high concept of professional ethics, I deplore the growth of a system which makes sub-citizens out of employes of the Federal Government.

"It is time for a serious study of the consequences of a system which can deprive a group of American citizens of their livelihood and reputation without due process of law.

"I hope that the new Administration will look into this fearlessly and thoroughly. I believe that loyalty can be maintained and security can be insured without violating the principles of the Constitution."

