

BRUNAUER

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Mrs. Brunauer Blasts McCarthy And Denies Red Connections

State Department Aide Terms Charge

'Violation of Tradition of Fairness' 3/27/50

By Cecil Holland

A State Department official today denounced as false and "a violation of traditions of fairness" charges by Senator McCarthy, Republican, of Wisconsin, that she is "pro-Communist."

The official was Mrs. Esther Caukin Brunauer of 3417 Quebec street N.W. She testified in a public hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee investigating Senator McCarthy's charges that Communists have infiltrated the State Department.

"I am a loyal American," Mrs. Brunauer said. "I am not a Communist and never have been a Communist. I have never engaged in Communist activities. I am not a Communist sympathizer and never have been a Communist sympathizer. I do not, and never have had, any sympathy for any doctrine which conflicts with the basic principles of our American democracy."

Mrs. Brunauer, who is on a State Department liaison staff, said she supports President Truman's loyalty program and that she has been cleared under that program.

"I have enough confidence in the strength of our American institutions to believe that Communists and their sympathizers can be kept out of our Government without violating the traditional American principles of de-

centy and fair play," Mrs. Brunauer testified.

Mrs. Brunauer said that she was aware that Senator McCarthy had not actually accused her of being disloyal, but, she added, "his insinuations were plain, and the newspapers, though they have been fair, were quick to see what he had in mind."

"The effects of these insinuations have not been limited to the press," she said. "In my household there are two small children and an elderly grandmother, besides myself and my husband. We are all upset and bewildered."

Since March 13, when Senator McCarthy's charges were made public, Mrs. Brunauer said her family has received anonymous telephone calls, "accompanied by threats and profanity, with such advice as 'get out of this neighborhood, you Communist, or you will be carried out in a box.'"

"All of you who have families will realize the effect this has on the atmosphere of a home—you know how you would feel if it were happening in your home. Senator McCarthy may have his own reasons for what he has done and the way he has done it, but I will never be able to understand them."

Mrs. Brunauer answered Senator McCarthy's charges in detail and presented a number of



DENIES CHARGES—Mrs. Esther Brunauer talks to Senator Tydings at today's hearing in which she denied Senator McCarthy's charges that she is pro-Communist. (Story on Page A-1.) —AP Photo.

Brunauer

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letters defending her and her husband, Stephen Brunauer, against whom Senator McCarthy also raised questions of loyalty.

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

"I am convinced the accusations are completely erroneous," Senator Ball said in a letter that Mrs. Brunauer turned over to the committee.



"Both of them are most strongly opposed to the ideology and practices of communism," Senator Ball added.

"Violent Anti-Communist."

The former Minnesota Senator described Mr. Brunauer as "perhaps the most violently anti-Communist person I know." Senator McCarthy had asked the committee to ascertain whether Mr. Brunauer had told associates that he was a member of the Communist Party.

Mr. Brunauer, a naturalized American of Hungarian descent, is a Navy scientist and an expert on explosives. He has denied in statements to the press that he was ever a member of the Communist Party.

Another letter defending Mrs. Brunauer was from Milton Eisenhower, president of Kansas State College and a brother of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Dr. Eisenhower wrote Chairman Tydings of the investigating committee that he had known Mrs. Brunauer since 1946 and is certain "she is loyal to the Constitution, laws and ideals of the United States."

Several hundred filled the Senate caucus room to hear Mrs. Brunauer give her testimony. She was dressed in a dark suit and a dark blue hat and before she sat down before the microphone she willingly posed for pictures and then read her statement in a voice firm and clear.

Takes Up Charges in Detail.

She took up one by one the charges that Senator McCarthy had made against her. One was that she was first assistant to Alger Hiss, former State Department official now convicted of perjury, at the San Francisco conference setting up the United Nations organization.

"This is an advance form of guilt by association," Mrs. Brunauer testified. "Moreover, it is incorrect. I had no personal or official contact with Mr. Hiss at San Francisco."

She added that she was a technical adviser in the United States delegation to the conference and that Mr. Hiss was secretary general of the conference and not a member of the delegation.

She said also that her contacts with Mr. Hiss in the State Department's office of special political affairs, of which Mr. Hiss was once director, were "infrequent and routine."

She next discussed Senator McCarthy's charge that she, as an official of the American Association of University Women, was instrumental in committing that organization to "various front enterprises" in the so-called consumer field.

Says McCarthy Is "Mistaken."

Mrs. Brunauer, who was connected with the association for 17 years, said:

"The Senator went on to say that I took this action knowingly and was not mistaken about what I was doing. The Senator, however, is badly mistaken."

She said Senator Tydings has received from Kathryn McHale, general director of the American Association of University Women, a letter saying that "at no time did Mrs. Brunauer have any connection with the association's consumer program."

Mrs. Brunauer next discussed Senator McCarthy's charges that she showed "pro-Communist" inclinations by presiding over a Washington meeting of Friends of the Soviet Union in 1936. She said she had ascertained that she did preside over such a meeting and had done so in her official capacity as associate in international education and relations with the Association of University Women.

"In 1936 the attitude of most Americans toward the Soviet Union was friendly and hopeful," she added. "I had no way of ascertaining then that the organization called the American Friends of the Soviet Union would at some later time be declared subversive. I was never a member of that organization and it was not considered reprehensible or a sign of disloyalty for American citizens to attend lectures on conditions in Soviet Russia, even if made by Soviet sympathizers."

Mrs. Brunauer acknowledged

that she had signed a call for the annual meeting of the American Youth Congress held in 1939, as Senator McCarthy had told the committee. She pointed out that the creed adopted at that meeting contained a pledge to "seek progress only within the framework of the American system of government."

She added that she was one of 110 signers that included five United States Senators, six Representatives and two cabinet members—Postmaster General Farley and Secretary of Interior Ickes.

"My recollection of this call is that it represented an attempt of the liberals to capture the leadership of the American youth organizations," Mrs. Brunauer said. "The fact that the American Youth Congress has been cited by the Attorney General as a subversive organization is an indication that we failed, but if we are to be criticized it is perhaps because we were not active and aggressive enough to succeed."

Mrs. Brunauer said Senator McCarthy had stated that she was active in launching the American Union for Concerted Peace Efforts.

"That is true, and I am proud of the fact," she added.

She said Senator McCarthy's charge that the organization had been cited as a Communist front group was "less than half a truth."

Explains Dies Citation.

She explained that the Dies Committee in 1944 had cited the organization as having the same aim as the American Congress for Peace and Democracy. She said the union "did advocate collective security" and so did "the loyal members of the League of Nations."

She said that Senator McCarthy's statement that the leader of the American Union for Concerted Peace Effort was the editor of the Communist Daily Worker was "entirely false."

The head of the organization, she said, was Dr. Clark M. Eichelberger, at that time president of the American Association for the League of Nations and now president of the American Association for the United Nations.

Mrs. Brunauer gave the committee a detailed statement of her background and education. She said she was a native of Califor-

nia, and that her ancestors for several generations back were "part and parcel of the growth of America."

She was graduated from Stanford University in 1927 and said that her principal interest since that time has been in international relations. Her only job before she joined the State Department in 1944 was with the American Association of University Women.

Defends Husband Vigorously.

Before she left the stand she gave a spirited defense of her husband. She said he came to this country at the age of 18 as an immigrant "without friends, without money, and without a command of the language."

"He was eager for American companionship, but this was largely denied him," she continued. "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."

She said they brought him into the Hungarian section of the Young Workers League, but that he dropped out of it in 1927 after he began to understand its operations as a Communist movement and see more clearly its conflict with American institutions.

"He * * * has not been a member of any Communist group since that time," she added. "His association with individuals in the Communist movement diminished rapidly after he came to Washington in 1928. By 1932 he had been denounced by the Communists as a deserter from their cause."

She described her husband as "a loyal American" who has devoted himself to this country's national defense and has made "positive contributions" that have been widely recognized.

"My husband is an outspoken opponent of communism," Mrs. Brunauer said. "He has done whatever lay within his power to thwart the Communists."

Mr. Brunauer, who was present, has asked for a hearing to deny the McCarthy charges. So far, no date has been set.

Senator McCarthy, "boycotting" the committee because he has not been given permission to cross-examine witnesses, was not present.

