

2 piece space

~~from~~ Bert Andrews, then Washington bureau chief of the New York Herald Tribune, won a Pulitzer Prize in 1948 for exposing the thing.

Scared silly of the increasingly clear designs of Joseph Stalin on the post-war West, the State Department, under pressure from conservative members of the House Appropriations Committee, fired ten employees in the first of a series of loyalty cases that had its climax in the escapades of Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

first under a recently passed law that requires no charges be brought and in fact none were. They also
The ten employees were ~~given no reason for their firing and, under the recently passed McCarran Act,~~ had no right to a hearing, ~~to answer whatever charges had been brought against them.~~ All were Jewish, except ~~two,~~ *two, one of* whose wife was a Jew.

One of ~~them~~ the ten was Harold Weisberg.

"I was in no sense a communist," Weisberg says. "In my case they knew it was not warranted. They first reduced me in force--a separate, other thing. I complained to the Civil Service Commission and the Commission ordered them to rehire me, and they threw me in with the other nine."

Weisberg had been working in a section whose chief had come under suspicion. But apparently, ~~in~~ *the McCarran Act* Weisberg's case, ~~the~~ was simply a way of getting rid of an upstart who had challenged a State Department personnel decision.

"As a matter of fact, when Bert Andrews interviewed

add ~~B~~ weisberg
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J. Edgar Hoover, he said there was nothing on any one of us that he knew, but that some of us might have been keeping company that, if one of his employees ~~was~~ were keeping, he would tell them they oughtn't keep. But that couldn't have related to me. I wasn't keeping any company."

As a result of the intensive publicity the episode received and the resulting tide of public opinion, the ^{men were rehired} ~~men were rehired~~ and all were allowed to resign "without ~~any~~ prejudice"--small comfort, but a definite improvement over the first situation.

After a period of scrambling, most of the group--all of whom held advanced degrees in one field or another with ~~the~~ the exception of Weisberg--finally found jobs in universities or private industry. But Weisberg had had it.

"There were certain aspects of my research that I didn't like, anyway," he says. "We got to the point where the research had built-in conclusions when it was assigned to me, and I found that intolerable."

after a brief return to the news business,
↳ Weisberg hung up his spyglass and bought a chicken farm.

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W. H. W. 2/1/58