

B48DNM (DX FW)

DALLAS, TEX., DEC. 8 (AP)-THE DALLAS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION ANNOUNCED TODAY IT IS LOOKING INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SUSPENSION OF A DALLAS SCHOOL TEACHER, MRS. ELEANOR COWAN. 8 DEC 9
1046P

SCHOOL SUPT. W. T. WHITE SUSPENDED MRS. COWAN, A FOURTH GRADE TEACHER IN THE ROBERT L. THORNTON SCHOOL, AFTER SHE WROTE A LETTER TO TIME MAGAZINE SAYING THE CITY OF DALLAS "PAVED THE WAY" FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

WHITE SAID THE SUSPENSION WOULD "LAST UNTIL AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE LETTER IS COMPLETE."

MRS. COWAN REFUSED TO TALK WITH NEWSMEN TODAY.

GREG OLDS, PRESIDENT, SAID A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DALLAS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION, TALKED WITH MRS. COWAN TODAY.

HE QUOTED MRS. COWAN AS SAYING DR. WHITE AND EWELL D. WALKER, DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL FOR THE DALLAS SCHOOLS, HAD TOLD HER THEIR MAIN CONCERN WAS THAT SHE HAD SAID SHE WAS A TEACHER AND THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER AND MEET WITH HER TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

OLDS SAID THAT IN REPLY TO A QUESTION MRS. COWAN SAID SHE HAD NOT VIOLATED ANY CONTRACT OR SCHOOL REGULATIONS THAT SHE WAS AWARE OF.

IN A STATEMENT OLDS SAID "WE VIEW WITH CONCERN ANY ABRIDGEMENT OF AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES SUCH AS FREEDOM OF SPEECH. PRELIMINARY REPORTS INDICATE MRS. COWAN IS BEING REPRIMANDED FOR MENTIONING HER PROFESSION WHILE EXPRESSING HER OWN PERSONNEL OPINION."

HE CALLED SUCH AN OBJECTION INCONSEQUENTIAL AND ADDED, "WE TRUST THE EXERCISE OF A CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEE--EXPRESSION OF OPINION, ANY OPINION--WILL NOT RENDER A TEACHER UNFIT FOR SERVICE IN THE DALLAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS MERELY BECAUSE SHE IDENTIFIED HERSELF AS A TEACHER."

MRS. COWAN'S LETTER TO THE EDITOR, WHICH APPEARED IN THE DEC. 6 ISSUE OF TIME MAGAZINE, SAID THAT NO MATTER WHAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY HAD BEEN FOR THE NEWSPAPERS AND MANY OF THE LEADERS OF DALLAS HAD BEEN AGAINST.

SHE WENT ON TO SAY "AS A TEACHER IN DALLAS I HAVE TRIED TO INSTILL IN MY STUDENTS A RESPECT FOR THE LEADERS OF OUR COUNTRY. HOW CAN THEY EVER GROW UP TO BE GOOD CITIZENS WHEN THE NEWSPAPERS, THEIR PARENTS, AND THE LEADERS OF THEIR OWN CITY PREACH DISSENSION?...DON'T LET ANYONE FOOL YOU. DALLAS IS AS RESPONSIBLE AS ANYONE, IF NOT THROUGH ACTION, THROUGH APATHY."

JS/CD1040PCS NM