

MAY 8 1976

FBI Linked to Editor

Nashville

The publisher of the Tennessean newspaper announced yesterday that a copy editor has been "separated" from the paper because of her alleged connections with the FBI.

In a statement, Tennessean Publisher John Seigenthaler said Mrs. Jacque Srouji, 31, had discussed with him information relating to "her past and recent communications with the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

"The most important factor in my decision to separate Mrs. Srouji from the newspaper was that it appeared to me as a result of her conversations the rights and interests of at least two other members of our newspaper's staff were involved."

A National Public Radio report said yesterday that congressional sources claimed Srouji was dismissed because she admitted funneling information about writers and reporters on the paper to the FBI.

The action follows testimony given by the woman before the House Energy and Environment Subcommittee April 24, claiming she had been given access to 100 pages of FBI documents in the controversial death of Oklahoma plutonium worker Karen Silkwood. The material previously had been denied to the House subcommittee.

The House panel is investigating the thoroughness of an FBI probe of Silkwood's death in a 1974 auto crash. The crash occurred while she was en route to discuss her allegations about health and safety violations at the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corp. plutonium facility in Crescent, Okla.

Srouji refused to name the FBI source who gave her access to the file. Subcommittee chairman Representative John Dingall (Dem-Mich.) said that FBI agent Larry Olsen testified under

pressure that "There's a special relationship between Srouji and the bureau."

The FBI has denied that Srouji is an agent, but has refused to comment whether she had a "special relationship" with the bureau.

Mrs. Srouji has recently finished a book concerning the Silkwood incident, based partially on the FBI documents.

She had worked for the Tennessean since September 1975.

Seigenthaler said he had "conveyed the information she gave me to representatives of the Justice Department, the FBI and interested congressional committees."

"I anticipate that appropriate investigations will follow," he said.

"If the information given to me by her is credible — and I believe that it is — then it is my judgment that the FBI has pursued an extremely unwise course of conduct in the past.

"Mrs. Srouji has been a competent staff member and the situation that has led to this conclusion is both unfortunate and regrettable."

United Press

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