

BOARD REVERSES WAR BRIDE'S CASE

Justice Department Reports on Immigration Finding About Mrs. Knauff

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 1—The Department of Justice said today that a recommendation by the Board of Immigration Appeals that Mrs. Ellen Knauff, German "war bride," be admitted to the United States was before J. Howard McGrath, the Attorney General, for his final decision. There was no indication when Mr. McGrath might announce his ruling.

The recommendation of the Appeals Board is a reversal of its previous finding that the presence of Mrs. Knauff here would be "prejudicial to the national security." This ruling was made March 26, after a hearing at which three witnesses testified that Mrs. Knauff had once been a paid agent of the Czechoslovak Government and had reported to it on American personnel assigned to the civil

censorship division in Germany. Mrs. Knauff denied these charges.

These newest developments in what has become a celebrated case reopened the possibility that Mrs. Knauff might win the fight she has been waging since August, 1948, to remain in this country and acquire United States citizenship by virtue of her marriage to Kurt W. Knauff, a former soldier who is now a civilian employe of the United States Army at Frankfurt, Germany. Mrs. Knauff is now a Czechoslovak citizen by reason of a previous marriage to a Czechoslovak, although she is German-born.

Mrs. Knauff was married to Mr. Knauff in Germany Feb. 28, 1948. In August of that year she arrived in New York to enter this country and obtain citizenship under the War Brides Act. She failed to obtain entry when the Department of Justice cited her as a "security risk."

Since that time she has been fighting the case in the courts and before various Government boards and agencies. She was detained at Ellis Island for neraly two years before being paroled, first in the custody of her husband and later of her attorneys.

After the exclusion order of the Justice Department had been upheld, the Supreme Court, on Jan.

16, 1950, held that Mrs. Knauff could be deported. Representative Francis E. Walter, Democrat of Pennsylvania, introduced a bill to permit her to remain here and become a citizen. It was passed by the House May 2, 1950.

The Senate Judiciary subcommittee, of which Senator Pat McCarran, Democrat of Nevada, is chairman, failed to report out the bill, however, and it was not acted on by the Senate. A later appeal to the Supreme Court was dismissed March 5 as "moot"—meaning that no live issue remained to be decided by the court at that time.

After the earlier ruling of the Immigration Appeals Board, a deportation order was issued May 18 by Argyle Mackey, United States Immigration Commissioner. Twenty minutes before here deportation plane was due to take off, Associate Justice Robert H. Jackson of the United States Supreme Court issued a stay of the deportation order. This permitted a new appeal to the Immigration Board.

The board has not disclosed its reasons for reversing its previous ruling or any of the proceedings leading up to its recommendation to the Attorney General. The recommendation is not binding on the Attorney General, but his decision will be final.