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Controversy Over Midway Port Gets Hot

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WASHINGTON, March 22—(AP)—A controversy between the neighboring Texas cities of Dallas and Fort Worth was laid before Jesse Jones of Houston Monday.

But after an all-day hearing by the Secretary of Commerce and Federal Loan Administrator the dispute remained unsettled.

The issue: should the administration building at Midway airport, under construction between the two cities, be located on the west or north side of the field.

Jones concluded he would have to study the question a while. He directed meanwhile that all work be stopped until a decision is reached.

More than a year ago the two cities, some 30 miles apart, apparently buried the hatchet after years of intense rivalry. They agreed on the Midway airport so transcontinental airlines could serve both cities with but one stop.

DALLAS PROTESTS

All seemed well until recently, when Dallas discovered the administration building was not to be erected on the north side of the field, which Dallas considered "neutral" territory, but on the west side. That wouldn't do, from their viewpoint, for Dallas lies to the east of the field and the new building would look toward the west—and Fort Worth.

Mayor Woodall Rodgers and others from Dallas protested to Jones and Civil Aeronautics Administrator Charles I. Stanton with the result that today's conference was called.

A Fort Worth delegation headed by Mayor I. N. McCrary and Publisher Amon G. Carter of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram asked and obtained permission to participate in the hearing.

A third interested party, the city of Arlington, was represented by Mayor W. F. Altman and Councilman C. L. Beasley. Actually Arlington is sponsor of the project, Fort Worth and Dallas having been unable to agree to an extent necessary to back the work as co-sponsors.

Rodgers vigorously condemned the western site as "a monumental insult" and "an affront" to Dallas and contended that the northern site would be fair to both cities. All Dallas wants is "fair treatment," he added.

BLAMES CARTER

The Dallas mayor referred scornfully to a letter from the CAA regional office at Fort Worth which said the west side had been chosen for the building after a careful study of prevailing winds in the belief that it would tend to provide greater efficiency of operation.

Rodgers indicated that he thought the real reason for the selection was another consideration. He quoted L. C. Elliott, the regional CAA director, as having told him that the building had to be put on the west side "to appease Mr. Carter.

Rodgers argued that original plans called for the structure on the north side and he recalled that a year ago the Fort Worth publisher had commented that the airport building should be exactly half way to the inch between the cities so that passengers alighting from planes could leave the airport and see a sign with arrows pointing west and east and the words "17 miles to Fort Worth—17 miles to Dallas. Take your choice."