

Pat Morris Neff

Pat Morris Neff, who died at the age of 80 at his home in Waco Sunday, was a Central Texas farm youth who became the governor of the state and president of a large university. For more than a generation he was an influential figure in political and religious fields.

Pat Neff, as he was universally known, exemplified the opportunity that lies in free America for the young man of ambition, ability and energy. He was thoroughly Texan, and spent practically all his life in the blackland region of the state. He made many contributions to the progress of Texas, not the least of which was the inspiring example of a man who practiced what he preached.

In public and private life, Pat Neff had clear-cut convictions and the courage to espouse them without fear of consequence. As governor, he called out the National Guard to deal with labor and oil field troubles, when a less resolute man might have temporized or evaded. Fearlessness of the type exercised by such men as President Grover Cleveland was a Neff trait that well could be emulated in public life of today.

An example of his tenaciousness and his adherence to conviction was his stubborn fight in the 1924 Democratic national convention against both Alfred E. Smith and William G. McAdoo, the chief rivals for the presidential nomination. After a long deadlock, John W. Davis was given the party's nomination on the 103rd ballot.

While stern in his beliefs, the 28th governor of Texas was a friendly man with a legion of close admirers and with an abiding devotion to his state. During his two terms as governor, Texas Technological College at Lubbock, the state college at Kingsville, the Texas system of state parks and the Texas Historical Board were created.

Pat Neff attracted nationwide attention in the 1920 campaign for governor in which he defeated former Senator Joseph Weldon Bailey. Mr. Neff was said to have visited practically every community in Texas in carrying his case to the voters. Previously he had been a member of the Legislature, speaker of the House, and prosecuting attorney in McLennan County. He was a fearless protagonist of law enforcement.

Other positions of prominence held

by Pat Neff included membership on the Texas Railroad Commission and the National Railway Mediation Board, first layman president of the Southern Baptist Convention, head of the Texas Water-sheds Association, past grand master of Texas Masons and past grand chancellor of the Knights of Pythias.

A staunch prohibitionist, Pat Neff abstained from the use of liquor, tobacco, coffee and tea. A devoted patron of education, he served long as trustee and later as president of Baylor University, where he maintained an office until his death.

Pat Neff left his imprint on his state and the lives of many under his influence. Texas is a better state by reason of native sons of his type and their constructive service.

Defense Collaboration

A tangible result of Prime Minister Churchill's visit to the United States, apart from better mutual understanding between two allies and co-ordination in foreign policy, has been the agreement to swap critical defense materials which both need in rearmament.

The British will be allowed to buy one million long tons of American steel, and the United States will be sold 20,000 long tons of tin and 55 million pounds of aluminum by the British. Tin and aluminum are sorely needed by the United States for defense production, and the American steel will be used in manufacture of British tanks, munitions and so on.

Thereby, rearmament will be expedited in both countries, and the distribution of critical materials will be determined by essential need rather than the mere ability to pay. Tin supplied by Britain to the United States will be derived from Malaya, which is exposed to Communist aggression and is being defended by British forces.

The United States is not interested in perpetuating British rule of Malaya but certainly in keeping open a source of supply of tin. The same practical consideration extends to many regions in the Far East where critical materials are obtained. Should these regions fall under Russian domination as they were under Japanese control in World War II, our