Texas Press Clipping Bureau
DALLAS
From Chronicle
Houston
Date 12-1-25

CARTER SAYS HE WON'T QUIT REGENT POST

Fort Worth Man Whose Resignation Was Requested Refers to Governor's Action as "Smoke Screen."

By Associated Press.

Fort Worth, Texas, Dec. 1.—Amon G. Carter, chairman of the board of directors of the Texas Technological College, whose resignation was requested Monday by Governor Miriam A. Ferguson, will not accede to her request, he announced in a formal letter to her and in a statement to the public issued here this afternoon.

The letter and statement deny all the charges made by the governor, and declare that this is an effort on the part of the Fergusons to divert attention from the highway disclosures.

o o o

Letter to the Governor.

The letter to the governor follows:

"Governor Miriam A. Ferguson, Austin, Texas.

"Dear Governor:

"The charges contained in your letter published in the press of the state asking for my resignation as a member of the board of directors of the Texas Technological College, are malicious and without justification.

"The extreme conscientious sense of duty, which you so gallantly refer to with so much regret, is nothing more than a smoke screen to divert the mind of the public from the real issues. My appointment was made by Governor Neff for four years, two of which I have yet to serve. I fully appreciate the responsibility and dignity which naturally accompanies a position of trust of this kind. The Texas Technological College has started out as a real institution, capably managed throughout and as chairman of its board of directors, I could not countenance any confusion of side line issues, interfering with its growth and development.

"I recall, as many others do, Governor Jim's past activities with respect to our educational institutions, especially the Texas University and with the consequences of his actions in mind and their effect on the growth and development of these institutions, I seriously question the wisdom of your counsel, which from your statement, is doubtless influenced by Governor Jim.

"Administrations may come and go, but these great institutions will go on forever, and I feel the responsibilities of those administering them should go directly to the people served by them and not to the particular administration which happens to be in power. If there is one point on which the people of Texas are in accord, it is that our educational institutions should be divorced from politics. Under the circumstances I am compelled to decline to accede to your request for my resignation. Meanwhile, if the board of directors, or the management of the Texas Technological College, or the people of Texas should feel that this institution would be benefited by my resignation, I would gladly resign. Respectfully,

"Amon G. Carter"

o o o

Carter's Public Statement.

A statement addressed by Carter to the people of the state follows:

"To the people of Texas:

"'Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad.' It is as true now as when the adage was first uttered and it would appear to fit the case of the governor as though the classics had the present situation in mind.

"The demand for my resignation as a member of the board of directors of the Texas Technological College, coming as it does at this juncture of time and circumstance, is simply a huge barrage to hide the real intent and motive that lurk behind it.

"It comes with poor grace to assert that now for the first time 'Governor Jim' has learned of certain things, which he now proceeds to denounce with smug unction as contrary to good morals.

"I say 'Governor Jim' with no purpose to wound the sensibilities of the good lady who is the nominal governor of the state, but to indicate the real actor who, like a ventriloquist behind the scenes, put his voice and his words into the figure on the stage.

o o o

"Ancient History."

"In truth, the things to which the governor refers, on account of which my resignation is demanded, represent ancient history, and an effort to make fiction out of fact and to lend to an innocent social entertainment the complexion of a violation of the law.

"I have no apology to offer for the fact that I acted as host on a certain occasion in the city of Fort Worth, when distinguished men and hundreds of guests assembled in Fort Worth to learn of the hospitality that awaited them from the chamber of commerce of which I chanced to be its representative at that time. I was general chairman of the committee that succeeded in bringing to Fort Worth a party of men celebrated the world over as leaders in great commercial enterprises, and the story that this entertainment violated the law is but another effort to divert the public mind from the real issues that now challenge attention on every hand.

"Usually, the zeal of a reformer comes by slow stages and his past is a background for very much of what he chooses to accomplish, but when the conversion is so sudden and abrupt that it marks an acrobatic performance, then indeed people look askance and wonder what prompted the peculiar antics of the performer.

"The occasion, obviously, to which 'Governor Jim' refers was that of the entertainment of the American Petroleum Institute in the city of Fort Worth in December, 1924, and it comes with extremely bad grace to belie the hospitality of Fort Worth and to charge that all the guests who assembled there, numbering men in all walks of life, were part conspirators in violating the law of the land. In very truth, there was no violation of the law and there could have been no such action as charged, because present with this party were members of the law enforcement departments of both county and city and, therefore, the accusation is quite as false and as flat as the role of reformer in which 'Governor Jim' seeks to clothe himself.

"It is strange, passing strange, that 'Governor Jim,' familiar with what took place at this entertainment, knowing of it for almost a year, should suddenly wake up to the enormity of the 'offense.' Why wait until the newspaper, with which I have the honor of being associated, should publish to the world a series of educational articles on highway development and seek, in company with other enterprising journals, to direct the public mind to the consideration of a wasteful highway policy?

o o o

"A Veiled Insinuation."

"If, indeed, I had wished to escape just such a diatribe as that in which 'Governor Jim' indulges, all that would have been necessary to do in the premises was to heed a veiled insinuation made sometime ago that unless such publications ceased there would be an effort on the part of 'Governor Jim' to 'catch up with me' and seek an indictment. Nothing that I did was cloaked or concealed from the public, because it was the public that was in attendance at this banquet I much prefer the approval of those good people to an indictment by 'Governor Jim.'

"Certainly, I did not seek in any way to prevent the dissemination of any fact that took place at this banquet and nothing was laid upon my conscience since that time that would warrant me in employing lawyers to obstruct the consequences of anything I had done or sanctioned.

"Time and again men have come to me to indicate that unless I saw fit to adopt a different policy with respect to the highway articles that I would be able to rue the day that first the newspaper of which I am a shareholder began to shed light in dark places and point out to the people the chasm in public finances that yawned at their feet. Nothing can be clearer than the fact that 'Governor Jim' is desperately trying to build a smoke screen to obscure the eyes of the people of Texas so that they may be turned aside from the true version of what has lately taken place in the highway department and the efforts of Attorney General Dan Moody to bring to light much that had been hidden from the public knowledge. In this connection, the 'governors' are following no one, not even themselves.

o o o

Work for the College.

"I have been actively identified with the Texas Technological College since the institution was created, having been elected chairman of the board of directors at a meeting in Sweetwater in the early part of 1923 and ever since that time, without a penny of expense to the state, I have dedicated the very best of which I was capable to the service of the institution, so that, together with my associates, I could assist in promoting an avenue of education for the youth of Texas.

"I recall in this connection that when the original cornerstone of the college was laid the 'governors'-elect had been invited to be present, but neither governor nor his wife chose to accept the invitation; and when later on in October of the present year, when the college opened with a phenomenal enrollment of 9906 students, our 'governors' were invited again to participate in the celebration connected with the opening of the college, but they and each of them failed to appear.

"It may be a trifle, but trifles sometime show which way the wind is blowing, that Governor Ferguson, in making mention of the college described it as the West Texas Technological College, when the lawmakers and all the people know that it fulfills a much wider scope and destiny than that, because, by law, it is designated as the Texas Technological College.

o o o

Willing to Match Record.

"I am perfectly willing to match my record as a member of the board of directors of the college, or in any other capacity, with that of 'Governor Jim,' and I am also willing to invoke the spirit of the past, a past which brings to mind that the slight unpleasantness between 'Governor Jim' and the state legislature grew out of his attitude toward the state university, as well as the unfortunate circumstances connected with the location of the proposed West Texas A. and M. in 1917. Personally, I have nothing to hide from the people of Texas and I have never sought from the legislature or any other body any condonement of my acts that would enable me to walk erect, either as citizen or candidate, in season or out.

"I am even willing to go further; I am prepared to match my humble record with that of 'Governor Jim,' giving him the odds in respect to eliminating altogether from that comparison any fact in connection with the highway disclosures.

o o o

Not in "Millionaire Class."

"When 'Governor Jim,' by innuendo, sought to include me among the millionaires, concerning whom he offered a reward of $500 for violation of the liquor laws, commendable as it was, he quite overleaped himself, because never having had a highway contract, I can not possibly fall into the millionaire class.

"In this connection, may I inquire whether the recent proclamation of 'Governor Jim' (which, like the religion or property of so many men, is concealed in his wife's name), in which a reward is offered for the conviction of bootleggers, includes those to whom amnesty was so freely afforded, or whether, spellbound by the scrupulous regard for highway contracts, those recently pardoned are now bent upon an honest career on the highway of good citizenship and Christian morals?

"As a matter of fact, the accusation of the governor is so egregious and absurd that it might well be classed with farce-comedy, but for the evident resentment that lay back of the charges.

o o o

Thanksgiving Day Game.

"Governor Ferguson relates an incident which happened at College Station in the progress of the football game between A. and M. and Texas University on Thanksgiving Day and points to the atrocious fact that I was reported to have admitted yelling 'hurrah for A. and M. and Dan Moody.'

"I am not surprised that my remark should bring forth the resentment of 'Governor Jim' since Mr. Moody as attorney general, recovered $600,000 of the taxpayers' money from one road contracting firm. And particularly when you call to mind that 'Governor Jim's reason, as he stated, for sitting in with the highway commission was that he would see to it that its affairs were 'economically administered.' Without pausing to inquire what standard work on economics 'Governor Jim' had been studying, I would like to know why $1,720,000 of the state's money was spent without any real contract, without a bond to secure its proper performance and at a price of 30 cents a square yard, fixed, not by the road contractors or competitive bid, but, according to the testimony under oath, by the chairman of the highway commission himself.

"'Governor Jim,' responding to a sensitive conscience, after this fact had been made manifest to all the world, sought to 'encourage' the attorney general by employing lawyers and paying them a fee of $2000 of the taxpayers' money to prevent the attorney general from prosecuting the suit and thereby avoid the cancellation of the road 'contracts' and the recovery of $600,000 of the people's money.

"I merely mention this in passing, not to reveal something not already known to the world, but to show what an acute conscience 'Governor Jim' possesses and with what pride he should refer to his conscience when discussing any fact connected with the highway situation. It must follow as an obvious conclusion that a conscience of this kind should be an exemplar to the younger generation and particularly to the students who may attend the Texas Technological College, or any other institute of learning. Doubtless, this conscientious regard for the people's welfare had much to do with the demand on the part of the governor that I should forward my resignation.

o o o

Yells for Dan Moody.

"My yells for Dan Moody are not treated as criminal in the statutes of the state, unless a new edict has been prepared in the highway department and has been formulated into law by Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson's husband. Is it any more of an offense against law and morals to toss up one's hat for Dan Moody than to obstruct the attorney general in his suit against highway contracts? The story that I was under the influence of liquor when I cried out on the one hand for A. and M. and on the other for Dan Moody was not only false in every particular, but could only be supported by the conclusion that, to the mind of 'Governor Jim,' anyone who declared for Dan Moody was either drunk or crazy.

"I have too much respect for my wife to tarnish her name with improper conduct, particularly when in her company, and I could wish that much the same might be said with respect to the public expenditures of those who sit enthroned in high authority.