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## Texas Tech Regent Denies Charges Made by Fergusons; Stands on Record.

(Associated Press.)

FORT WORTH, Texas, Dec. 1.—Declining to accede to Governor Ferguson's demand that he resign from the Texas Technological college board of directors, Amon G. Carter, chairman, Tuesday addressed a letter to the Fergusons in which he denied all of their charges of Monday and declared he stood on his record before the people of Texas and before the governing body of the college. He declared that the demand of the Fergusons for his resignation and their charges were a "smoke screen" thrown out to divert the attention of the voters from the present highway situation. He declared further that the public wanted the educational institutions of the state divorced from politics and political strife and challenged the governor and her husband to compare his record with that of former Governor Jim.

Carter gave out both his letter to the woman governor, and also a statement to the public, in which he arraigned the record of the husband, in which he related some of the highway history and also some of the former governor's past acts toward Texas institutions.

All of the charges of Governor Ferguson were denied by Carter.

The statement and the letter follow:

"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."

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 the ventriloquist behind the scenes, puts his voice and his words into the figure on the stage.

"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 the 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.

### Action Is Strange.

"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?

"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 some time 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, and 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 fooling no one, not even themselves.

"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.

### Fergusons Not Present.

"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 Jim' nor his wife chose to accept the invitation; and when, later on, in October of the present year, the college opened with a phenomenal enrollment of 9906 students, our 'governors' were invited