

Dispatched
From

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Date

CARTER REFUSES TO QUIT SCHOOL BOARD POSITION

Issues Lengthy Statement Denying All Charges Made By Governor.

EFFORT TO VEIL ISSUE

Says Statement Was Designed To Take Public Mind Off Road Matters.

Fort Worth, Dec. 2.—Charging that Governor 'Ma' Ferguson's demand for his resignation as a director of Texas Technological College is only a "smoke screen to divert attention from the real issue," Amos G. Carter, publisher of the Fort Worth Record-Telegram, dispatched a letter containing his refusal to resign to Mrs. Ferguson Tuesday. A copy of the letter was given to the press.

At the same time, Carter issued a statement to the public which denied that he had conducted a booze party, declared he meant no discourtesy to the governor in yelling for A. & M. College and Dan Moody at the Thanksgiving Day football game and characterized former Governor Jim Ferguson as a ventriloquist who puts his voice and his words into the figure on the stage.

Resenting the implication that he was the millionaire prohibition law violator at whom Mrs. Ferguson's \$500 reward offer was aimed, Carter declared that "never having had a highway contract, he could not possibly fall into the millionaire class."

Carter's statement to the public in part follows:

"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 lurks 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 unctiousness 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 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 lead 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 the 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.

NO LAW VIOLATED.
"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 is 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 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 editorial articles on highway development and seek, in company with other enterprising journals, to divert the public mind to the consideration of a wasteful highway policy?"

NOT CONCEALED FROM PUBLIC.
"If, indeed, I had wished to escape just such a describe 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 quiet and nothing has 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.

'GOVERNORS' FOOL THEMSELVES.
"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 made to rue the day that first the newspaper to which I am a shareholder

er 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 has been hidden from the public knowledge. In this connection, the 'Governors' are fooling no one, not even themselves.

"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 overlapped himself because, never having had a highway contract, I can not possibly fall into the millionaire class.

"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.

YELLS FOR 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 Mistress 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 contractors? 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 furnish 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.

"While the charges contained in Governor Ferguson's letter were slanderous in the extreme and libelous per se, they were printed in full in the newspapers with which I am associated, as a matter of fairness, and my rights under the libel law I gladly waived as far as other newspapers were concerned, in order that the governor's statement might have the widest publicity.

"In conclusion I beg to say that I do not hold my commission as a member of the board of directors of the

Texas Technological College from 'Governor Jim' or the Highway Commission but since it is a public trust and for which an accounting should be made to persons in authority, who themselves are free from the breath of public suspicion, I shall await another conjuncture of time and circumstances before I even presume to consider the subject. However, it behooves me to say that I shall continue to perform my duties as such director, 'Governor Jim' and the Highway Commission to the contrary notwithstanding.

(Signed) "AMON G. CARTER."