

From

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CARTER GIVES REASONS FOR NOT QUITTING

98

ISSUES LETTER AND ALSO STATEMENT ON THE CONTROVERSY.

FORT WORTH, Texas, Dec. 2.—In refusing to resign from the board of directors of the Texas Technological College, as requested by Gov. Ferguson, Amon G. Carter, local publisher, gave out the following letter and statement:

"Gov. 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 without justification. My appointment was made by Gov. 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.

"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 lengthy statement addressed by Carter to the people of the State is in part as follows:

"I have no apology to offer to 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 criticizing this entertainment is but another effort to divert the public mind from the real issues that now challenge attention on every hand.

The A. P. I. Banquet.

"The occasion, obviously, to which the Governor 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.

"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.

Work for Texas Tech.

"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 corner stone of the college was laid the 'Governors-elect' had been invited to be present, but neither Gov. Jim 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 906 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 sometimes show which way the wind is blowing, that Gov. 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.

Would Match Records.

"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 'Gov. Jim,' and I am also willing to invoke the spirit of the past, a past which brings to mind that the slight unpleasantness between 'Gov. Jim' and the State Legislature grew out of his attitude toward the State University. I have nothing to hide from the people of Texas.

"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.

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

"My yells for Dan Moody are not treated as criminal in the statutes of the State.

"It is unnecessary for me to say that I not only had no intention to be discourteous to the Governor of the State, nor did I endeavor to embarrass any one.

"My wife always has been a partisan for the Texas University, while I, on the other hand, always have 'rooted' for A. & M. But I may be permitted to say in a sort of stage whisper that I always have supported and encouraged the development of both institutions, side by side. As a taxpayer and as sort of balancing the family allegiance and as one who had paid his way into the football game, I reserved the right to shout for A.

& M. very much as I had done in times past and particularly to hurrah for Dan Moody because of his energetic activities and courage in protecting the taxpayers of the State—and all this on his part, notwithstanding the opposition from the executive mansion where the idea seemed to prevail that it was proper to spend the public's money as such expenditures were disclosed by the evidence submitted in the recent trial.

"While the charges contained in Gov. 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 Gov. Ferguson, but since it is a public trust and one for which an accounting should be made to persons in authority, I shall await another conjuncture of time and circumstances before I will ever presume to consider the subject. However, it behooves me to say that I shall continue to perform my duties as such director. Signed: "AMON G. CARTER."