

Democrat-Voice

From

Coleman

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AMON G. CARTER REFUSES TO RESIGN AS TEXAS-TECH REGENT

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

Statement and Letter.

The statement and the letter follows:

"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 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 the 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 by Mr. Carter follows:
Statement to the People.

"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 Texas Technological college, coming as it does at this juncture of time and circumstances, 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, 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.

No Apology to Make.

"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 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 be-

lie the hospitality of Fort Worth and to charge that all the guests who assembled there, numbering men in all walks of life, were 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 among the party were members of the law enforcement departments of both the city and county and therefore the accusation is as false and flat as the role of reformer with which 'Governor Jim' seeks to clothe himself.

"It is strange, passing strange that 'Governor Jim' is familiar with what took place at the 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 direct the public mind to the consideration of a wasteful highway policy?"