

Advance

From

Kotlan

Date 8-13-16

MORE FERGUSON TRICKERY

(Star-Telegram Editorial)

The declaration of Governor Ferguson, made on July 26, that regardless of whether Mr. Moody obtained a majority or not she would not contest the nomination of the Governorship with him in a run-off primary, has been proven to have meant nothing. It has been proven to have meant no more at the time than the offer she made when she opened her campaign to resign if he led her by as much as one vote.

Failing in their efforts to bar Mr. Moody from a place on the ticket before the State Executive Committee at Dallas Monday, the Fergusons will now run it off with him in a second primary and take their flimsy case of election law violation to the courts.

After all it should have been expected and particularly after Mrs. Ferguson twisted her promise of resigning immediately into a resignation contingent as to time upon the Legislature's acting upon such matters as she might see fit to submit at a special session. It is typical of the Fergusons and typical of what has come to be known as Fergusonism a state of mind, a regard for state-ments, and a course of action peculiarly their own.

It is the last straw. The public good naturedly accepted Mrs. Ferguson's sidestepping of her pledge to resign. They excused it on the theory that at most the State would be rid of the Fergusons within a few months and that in view of her promise to withdraw from the second primary there was no need of demanding her immediate resignation. What little sympathy was left to her by reason of this action has been swept away by the decision of Monday. Instead of the deliberate promise being broken, the State has witnessed two, all within a few weeks. It shows that after all the Fergusons intend to remain in power to the very last minute. It shows that if technicalities and flimsy charges can be resorted to in sufficient numbers they will be used to enable the Governor to finish out her term rather than resigning before that date.

However, the latest move of the Fergusons will avail them nothing and to every right minded person it will appear as a clear case of political assininity. Mr. Moody defeated Mrs. Ferguson in the first primary by 120,000 votes. He obtained more

votes than she and Lynch Davidson, the third candidate, combined. Omitting the small vote of approximately 1,600 given to Mrs. Johnston, who withdrew two days before the primary Mr. Moody obtained a clear majority. In the field of six candidates, with the votes for all counted, he missed a majority by a very small figure.

In this situation, it is difficult to see what Mrs. Ferguson hopes to obtain by a run-off with Mr. Moody. Certainly she can not expect any of the Moody supporters to switch their votes to her. She can expect little, if any, support from the Davidson faction; rather, it is expected that the vote cast for him will practically all go to Mr. Moody. The scattering vote given the others, while unimportant in the total, can not even be counted as Ferguson votes. Had they been they would have been cast for her in the first place, rather than for candidates known to have had no chance of success. The vote polled for Mrs. Ferguson in the first primary is undoubtedly her maximum strength. The vote in the run-off will not see it increased; rather it will see it materially decreased, for this latest move is bound to disgust many of those who voted for her in the first primary and to alienate much of her strength. To many of them, as well as to those who supported the other candidates, it will be viewed as nothing less than an attempt to deprive the successful candidate of his well-earned victory and to thwart the will of the majority of Texas voters.

The hope of the Fergusons must lie in something beyond the ridiculous assumption of possible victory in a run-off. It must have been made in order to protect themselves in the event the courts should bar Mr. Moody's name from the ballot at the general election in November. Either that, or it is designed as a smoke screen to cover up some other plan the Fergusons have in mind by which they can retain power to the end of their term.

But if the Fergusons must have a run-off, if they demand something more decisive as to the people's will than a plurality of 120,000 votes, let Texas give it to them. Let every voter go to the polls in the August run-off and cast his vote for Dan Moody against Fergusons. If the 120,000 plurality isn't a stinging rebuke to the Ferguson administration and Fergusonian methods, let Texas roll up a vote that will be such a rebuke that even such rhinoceros-hided politicians as the Fergusons can not mistake its sting.

It is not a question now of personalities. It is a question of good government and the people's will. It is a question of whether they will continue to permit the Fergusons to make pledges and to break them deliberately; to make a plaything of the State government and a laughing stock of the people of Texas. It is a question that we thought had been decided by the voters of this State on July 24; but if it must be decided again let's do it and do it right.

There is no use wasting any sympathy on Mrs. Ferguson. Too much has been wasted already. That has been shown by the two promises she made herself and by her later action in breaking both. She assumed responsibility in both of these cases. She is now part and parcel of Fergusonism and the State might as well face the fact and act accordingly. The Fergusons must go.