

Amarillo Man Writes Letter To A. G. Carter, Ft. Worth Publisher Asking Some Pointed Questions

Following is a copy of a letter written by H. L. Mauldin, of Amarillo, to Amon G. Carter, of Fort Worth, which has been received by the Forum with permission from Mr. Mauldin for its publication:

"Mr. A. G. Carter, Fort Worth, Texas.

"My Dear Amon:—I am in receipt of your letter of Dec. 18, 1925, in which you deny the charges made against you by Governor Ferguson. And you say you waived certain rights as to libel law. Now Amon, isn't it true that you were afraid that if you brought suit they would prove it on you.

"You ask if I care nothing about how the state's money is being spent and go on as if everybody is dumb that don't get excited about this highway muddle. How did you stand with the two previous governors? Why didn't you become alarmed when our state's money was slipping away then? The several million dollars that was left in the state treasury when they kicked Jim Ferguson out. This together with a deficiency of three million dollars more making a total of nearly nine million dollars was spent by the two previous governors. Over seven hundred thousand dollars had to be borrowed to run the penitentiary while the state's cotton was bringing from 30c to 40c a pound. And as Ma has decreed that this is laugh month, please laugh this off.

"Our state was in a bankrupt condition. State employes were having to discount their warrants. Now mind you this all happened during the reign of one of the governors from whom you so proudly boast of having received your appointment as regent of the W. T. college. Why didn't you become alarmed then? Why did you wait until we had elected a governor that had put the state on a cash basis with the state's funds increasing by leaps and bounds? Did all this cause you to become so excited that you couldn't keep quiet at a football game and had to be escorted from the grounds by officers? Here is another good laugh.

"I am convinced that there might have been some carelessness in the highway department, but I was satisfied that the Fergusons would straighten it out. Which they have done, and we now have a new deal in highway officers and that is all any governor could do. As to the Fergusons employing an attorney, they only raised a point as to who had the authority to bring suit, the attorney general or the governor. The court decided in favor of the attorney general and the decision was accepted and no objections raised.

"If the decision had been in favor of the governor I would bet that she would have made a better settlement than was made by Dangerous Dan. No sane man believes that the American Road Company would have quit so easy if they hadn't been getting the best of the deal. No, they would still be fighting in the courts. The six hundred thousand dollars that you are trying to make people believe they saved has dwindled down to two hundred and eighty-four thousand, and their contract only half done. Who wouldn't give up a contract on these terms?

"Now Amon, if the state isn't in a better financial condition when the Fergusons go out than it was when your friends went out, I will be willing to subscribe for the Star-Telegram for the rest of my life.

"Yours for many a good laugh,

"H. L. MAULDIN,

"Amarillo, Texas, Jan. 3, 1926."