

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

AMON G. CARTER, PRESIDENT

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

February 25, 1932.

Hon. Ross Sterling,
Governor of Texas,
Austin, Texas.

My dear Governor:

In the belief you appreciated fully both the friendly spirit and sincerity of motive actuating my San Antonio conversation the other day, I am emboldened to pursue the subject further. Perhaps an analysis of the situation as I see it will be helpful and certainly an exchange of ideas should be beneficial.

There can be no question about your justification in asking for a second term and, at the same time, I think you have every justification for not making the race for re-election and little, if anything, to be gained by so doing. You have served the public for six years, with credit to yourself and benefit to the taxpayers. In doing so, undoubtedly, you have been forced to neglect your large personal interests and to sustain considerable financial sacrifice. Surely, you have done all in this respect that the public could expect of you - far more than most men in your position would do - and none could justly criticise you for retiring. You have gone through some of the most trying times we have seen, a period when everybody is prone to criticise and when every public official has been more or less under fire for refusal to permit the treasury to be opened to all who appealed and government to be made a Santa Claus. Your conduct during such a time and the record of the administration are not in need of apology. By no stretch of the imagination could your refusal to seek re-election be termed a sign of weakness, or a desire for vindication. It would be taken by the public merely as a case of a successful business man of large affairs, who sacrificed his time and his means for the public good, desiring the opportunity to recoup his personal fortunes. Instead of criticising you, I believe the public would commend you and if anything have a higher appreciation of your services and the sacrifice that you have made than is now the case.

I am not altogether fearful of the result of the campaign (although some of your good, sane friends are doubtful under present conditions), but I do fear its character. The farmers have passed through two years of the worst conditions they ever have known. There are a large number of unemployed. Resentment against the established order of things and those in office is apt to

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be pronounced, as unjust as it is. The ground is ripe for the sowing of the character of campaign one of the candidates knows so well how to conduct. At best, it is certain to mean weeks, if not months, of bitter mud-slinging, unjust, but ugly charges, increased, rather than decreased, discontent - further, it will cost more to conduct this campaign than the last one. I do not mean to imply that you would or should run from a situation of this kind or that you should weaken at the mere approach of such. I merely point it out as something to be avoided, if it can be done, in good conscience and without embarrassment. I know if I were faced with the same situation, I should desire to avoid it, particularly if I were conscious of having rendered six years of faithful, creditable service, at a personal financial sacrifice as you have done.

But, whatever your decision, I wish to emphasize that my suggestions are not the outgrowth of any selfishness, nor interest in any other candidate. Neither my personal attitude nor that of the paper is involved. If you make the race, you will have my personal support and that of the paper. Neither is seeking to run from the fight or to get you out of the way to support any other candidate. It is merely because you have attained all the honor that can be attained out of the office, have sustained more sacrifice than any one could expect, and have such justification for retiring, that I suggested it in the first place and have taken the liberty of amplifying it in the second.

With very best wishes and sincerest personal regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

AGC.KD