

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

AMON G. CARTER, PRESIDENT

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

April 27, 1932.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL.

Mr. Harry Wiess,
Humble Oil & Refining Co.,
Houston, Texas.

Dear Harry:

The political situation is becoming very acute and, frankly, as the set-up looks now I have my serious doubts as to whether Governor Sterling can defeat the Fergusons in the coming election. Confidentially, I discussed this matter with the Governor in San Antonio at the time of the Garner rally. Following this, on February 25th I wrote him as per the enclosed copy, trying to prevail on him not to run. Meanwhile, I stated to him if he did run we would go ahead and support him.

The campaign is going to be an extremely nasty one and it will not only be embarrassing to the Governor, but it will be humiliating. As indicated in my letter, the time and times are a set-up for the kind of a campaign the Fergusons are experts on. Another thing, as outlined to the Governor, it is going to be an expensive, hard, tough, rough campaign. The Governor has unfortunately been hard hit financially and most of his friends are almost in the same shape and while it would cost the Governor a substantial fund to conduct any kind of a campaign, the Fergusons can operate one on a shoe string.

As you know, through commodity prices and the present depressing times most everybody is dissatisfied with the man that is in, irrespective of his ability. While it is true they may not know the real cause for all of our troubles, at the same time they place the responsibility up to the head man, so to speak. You would be surprised to find the number of substantial business people who frankly state that they are going to vote for Ferguson, that old Jim is not a bad sort and things could not be much worse than they are now. The Governor ran on a business man's platform and although I think he has done everything he possibly could, at the same

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time it will be an easy matter for the Fergusons through their clever political manipulations to claim that the past administration has not been successful.

Jimmie Record, our managing editor, has just recently completed a trip through West Texas and reports to me a tremendous interest in support of the Fergusons. Therefore, I am firmly convinced that if we are to beat the Fergusons in the Governors race next term, it will be necessary to have some other candidate than Governor Sterling.

Confidentially, there is a grave question as to how many newspapers in the state will support the Governor for a second term. I am not sure whether there is any foundation for it or not, but my information is that there is some question about even the Houston papers supporting him.

Knowing that Mr. Frank Sterling, his brother, is associated with you, I thought you might feel disposed to discuss this matter with him and appeal to him if he wants to do his brother a real service to try and persuade him not to run. I told the Governor in my letter of February 25th that we would be for him and we are going to live up to this statement, even though we go down in defeat. As you know, we opposed Governor Sterling in the first campaign meanwhile he has made so much better Governor than we expected that we have learned to have a high regard and great respect for him and this is the only thing which prompts me to write this letter, as well as the letter which I sent the Governor.

As you know, it is reaching the time now when he must make a decision and if you can do anything on this matter it will be an act of charity. Please consider this letter confidential and destroy it as soon as you have read it.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,