

HEADQUARTERS

MIRIAM A. FERGUSON
CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR OF TEXAS
TEMPLE, TEXAS

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DEAR VOTER:

I am taking the liberty to send you a copy of a platform for governor announced by my husband, James E. Ferguson, which I will thank you to read.

Through the mysterious workings of the courts he has been denied the right to have his name on the ticket in the coming primary election. By such action the people also have been denied the right to vote for him if they wanted to. Using an unfair and inhuman judgment of impeachment, the politicians have secured the aid of the courts to come between my husband and the people and their voice is hushed in passing upon the merits of the charges against him.

To uphold my name and the names of my children and the rights of the people, I have announced for governor, and I will much appreciate your vote for me, because they will not let you vote for him.

If elected, I shall endeavor to carry out the platform of my husband and he will in every way help me to make the very best governor Texas ever had.

I will thank you to drop me a line as to political conditions in your section, and if you can obtain the aid of friends, to organize a "FERGUSON FOR GOVERNOR CLUB", I will be under many obligations to you.

Thanking you in advance for anything you can do, I am,

Yours truly,

Miriam A. Ferguson



JAS. E. FERGUSON
OF TEMPLE
BELL COUNTY'S CANDIDATE
FOR
GOVERNOR



To the People of Texas:

I hereby announce myself a candidate for Governor of Texas, subject to the action of the democratic primaries to be held this year.

Two reasons prompt this action. One is that I need the people. The other is the people need me. I need the people to help me obtain a vindication against an alleged verdict of impeachment, which was unjust and unfair to me and my family.

The people need a governor now worse than ever before in the history of our great state of Texas. I can render that service, and if everybody will just read this platform they will know that I know what I am talking about. This is the most valuable document ever written in the interest of the people of Texas.

No one knows better than I do that just as soon as this announcement goes forth the usual cry will go up that I have been impeached and that I cannot hold the office and the legislature would not seat me even if the people elected me. To all such arguments and statements let me reply now in advance that there are many good and sufficient reasons why I am not disqualified to hold any office to which I may be elected by the people.

The first is that my impeachment was attempted at a call session for another purpose. There never was any law to try or impeach and remove me as governor and as an evidence of this fact the legislature passed such a law in October after I had resigned in September in 1917. The second is that the so-called verdict of impeachment was rendered at one term of the legislature after the term of the legislature at which the charges were preferred against me by the lower house had expired by limitation. In other words, charges could only be preferred by the lower house and the senate would have to act on them at the same term that they were preferred.

This defect in the law was sought to be cured in a law passed after I went out of office.

The third reason why I am not disqualified to hold office is that I resigned and my resignation was filed with the secretary of state more than a day before the alleged verdict of impeachment of removal and disqualification was rendered. My successor had already qualified. The law of removal and disqualification to hold office only applies to one holding an office and therefore when the officer resigns then the right to remove or disqualify ceases. If this is not so, then the senate could now disqualify any former governor, or even any other private citizen from holding office.

The fourth reason is that whatever verdict was rendered against me by the former senate seeking to disqualify me from holding office was by action of the last senate set aside and cancelled, and I was relieved from the terms of the old judgment of the senate. However, the last senate has sought to destroy the evidence of its judgment relieving me and my name is yet in question as well as my right to hold office.

Therefore I have again announced for governor, and if hereafter those in authority shall attempt to bar from the ticket my name and shall thereby attempt to keep the people from voting for me if they so desire, then I serve notice that the name of my good wife who has suffered with me in all this trouble, will go to the executive committee as a candidate for governor, and I will ask the people to elect her. She and our children are entitled to just as much vindication as I am, because they will have to bear the blot that has been wrongfully put on the name, even after I am gone. To run

for office is not altogether pleasant, but as long as life shall last I will be found contending that this wrong ought to be righted.

If it is found necessary to elect my wife because they will not let the people elect me, then I promise and pledge that I will give of my time and talent, without purchase and without price, the best there is in me to give this state the best executive administration that is possible. If the state has a Governor Ferguson we need not fall out about who signs on the dotted line.

This is why I need the people. Now, this is why the people need me.

The state is now in debt and by the end of the present administration, according to the estimate of the Comptroller, the debt will be somewhere between seven and ten million dollars.

The penitentiary is over two million in the hole, the country schools are running on half time, the highest tax rate in history now burdens the backs of the people, and the spirit of reckless and foolish extravagance and criminal incompetency seems to have gotten a firm hold on almost every branch of government. Instead of ours being a peaceful and prosperous country, crime and vice are apparent on every hand, and rent, interest and taxes are damming all the hopes and ambitions of the people.

The people can right these wrongs if they will. If they do not it is their own fault.

It is no longer sufficient for the candidate to say that he or she is opposed to high taxes and that useless offices ought to be abolished. High sounding phrases and big words mean nothing. The voter now has a right to know what taxes the candidate will oppose and what offices he would abolish.

No such complaint shall or will be urged against me. So here goes. When I am elected Governor I will cut out, by the Governor's veto, the last appropriations by the legislature as follows:

Mileage and Per Diem

Mileage and per diem from \$275,000 to \$175,000 and save \$100,000.

Contingent expenses from \$110,000 to \$60,000, and save \$50,000—Total \$150,000.

Let the legislature take up the appropriation bill first and maybe they can get through in the first sixty days; but if they stay for ninety days let the Governor call back immediately after sixty days, and thereby save one mileage both ways—then taking three hundred miles as the average distance and allowing 5 cents a mile two days would be \$30 for 181 members, or \$54.30—then the per diem of 181 members is \$905 a day or \$81,450 for ninety days. For good measure make it \$100,000, and then save \$175,000. Then give them a clerk or stenographer for every four members and pay them \$5 a day for ninety days and you have \$225 a day or \$20,250 for the term. Now, for good measure, let them have in round numbers \$40,000 more for fun and frolic and junketing and then you have only \$60,000, but we have saved \$50,000 over the last legislature.

Governor's Office

The next item is \$33,800 for salaries of the governor's office for two years. I would cut out the items of assistant secretaries and pay two stenographers \$1,800 each and thereby save \$9,000. I would then cut out the custodian of files and save \$2,400 more or a total of \$11,400 in the governor's office. I know it can be done because I have tried.

Secretary of State

The next item is \$67,480 for the Secretary of State office for two years. Included in this is \$7,500 for enforcing the blue sky laws. This is the county and district attorneys' business for which they are well paid. I would cut this out and I

know there are at least four clerks too much, and I would eliminate that many and save \$5,000 more or a total of \$12,500 in this department.

Adjutant General's Department

The next item is \$440,000 for the Adjutant General's department for two years. The main part of this item is \$380,000 which is turned over to the Adjutant General to do as he pleases in building buildings, buying uniforms, hiring clerks and stenographers, the pay and transportation of officers and a hundred other things too numerous to mention. The war is over. This extravagance in the name of war should stop. I would cut out this item to \$140,000 and save \$300,000.

I would also cut the ranger service bill from \$240,000 to \$120,000 and save \$120,000. I can go in partners with the local peace officers of the state and the law can be enforced that way the best.

We have had too much of this pistol-totin' big-hat brigade already.

Board of Control

The next item is \$390,000 for the wonderful Board of Control, presided over by three men at \$5,000 each and all traveling expenses. This department has control of public parks and buildings and the purchase of supplies for state institutions. There is nothing complicated about the service. I would abolish the salaries of two of the board, put it under one head and save \$20,000 to start with. The item of \$90,000 for printing in this department is extravagance on its face. I would veto it down to \$50,000 and maybe some more and save \$40,000. Several other items in this department could be cut and save at least \$10,000 more.

Attorney General's Department

The next item is \$129,600 for the Attorney General's Department for two years. In this item is \$75,600 for the hire of eleven assistant attorney generals at \$3,600 each. It is a matter of common knowledge that these places have been filled more times on account of political ability than legal ability. To secure the state the best talent, I would employ six real lawyers and raise their salaries to \$4,000, the same as the attorney general gets, or a total of \$48,000 for the six instead of ten and thereby save \$27,600. The item of \$27,500 for stenographers is more than needed and could be easily reduced to save \$7,000 more. Likewise the item of \$60,000 for maintenance of the attorney general's department is too much and I know it can be reduced so as to save at least \$20,000 more. We have too many of these bushy-headed alleged lawyers running around over the country at the expense of the people. Let the legislature quit passing so many fool laws and we won't need so many attorney generals to pass on them anyhow.

Treasury Department

The State Treasurer's office appears to be operated on lines of economy and efficiency.

Education Department

The Department of Education carried a total appropriation for the two years of \$146,000. The item of \$12,000 for traveling expenses is evidently too much and the item of \$25,000 for printing and distributing is too much, especially in view of the item of \$10,000 for postage and stationery, which is also in the bill. This department can stand a cut of 10 per cent and thereby save \$15,000 more.

It is a matter of serious doubt whether the item of \$525,961 for vocational education appropriated to match federal funds ought to be allowed or not. They will have to show me before I allow it.

Banking Department

The next item is the Bank Department, which carries a total appropriation of \$231,000 for the

two years. In this amount is an item of \$160,000 for bank examiners. State banks are examined four times a year. For fifty years national banks have been examined only twice a year. From experience and observation I know that national bank examination is more efficient than state examination. Four examinations a year are too many and unnecessary. Therefore the state could cut this item half and save \$80,000. The same fees could be charged as now and the state would actually make \$80,000 as a revenue from state bank examination.

In this department is also an item of \$100,000 for traveling expenses of bank examiners and representatives. By cutting the number of examinations in half \$50,000 more in traveling expenses could be eliminated and by letting the fees stay as they are \$50,000 more revenue would accrue as a saving.

Comptroller's Department

The next item is \$280,000 for the Comptroller's Department for the two years. This department has fifty-four employees. This department has long been a place for pie hunters and incompetents. The department carries an appropriation of \$30,000 for traveling expenses. It looks like everybody wants to travel at the expense of the taxpayer. To say that a saving of \$28,000 or 10 per cent cut could be made in this department would be putting it mildly.

Board of Health

The next item is \$297,000 appropriated for the State Board of Health. I would cut out of this item \$10,000 for salaries and maintenance of mosquito control. Fighting mosquitoes is certainly not a proper function of government. If we undertook to kill all the mosquitoes in Texas it would absolutely bankrupt the state and then we couldn't do it nohow. I would cut out the Bureau of Laboratories and save \$4,200. Likewise I would cut out the Bureau of Communicable Diseases and save \$8,500 more.

Believing that the mothers of Texas as yet have sense enough to raise families I sure would veto the Bureau of Hygiene and save \$73,000 more. Also I would put the skates under the Bureau of Rural Sanitation and save \$37,000 and ditto the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering and save \$27,000 more of the people's money. And the Bureau of Venereal Diseases is just plain graft, and I would cut that out and keep \$13,500 more in the treasury.

Likewise I would veto the \$5,000 for the contingent fund of the State Board of Health, and I would veto their traveling expense item of \$25,000 down to \$10,000. It looks like every "feller" that gets a public job immediately gets wheels in his head and begins to gouge the treasury for traveling expenses. There is at least \$6,000 more I am sure could come out of this item of the Board of Health. I am in favor of looking after public health, all right, but you can't do much at the job with just clerks and stenographers and tax suckers.

Topo-Hydro Surveying

The legislature appropriated \$676,000 to be spent by the Board of Water Engineers, the State Reclamation Department and created a new office of State Reclamation Engineers. They did not give them a salary, but turned over to them \$200,000 to spend as they want to during the next two years. I could cut \$600,000 of this item and I serve notice on the crowd that is seeking to put over this waste of money that when I go into the governor's office that this graft will stop.

They call it the Topographic and Hydrographic Survey. Boiling it down to every-day language, this scheme is to turn over \$600,000 to this crowd to go out and make surveys and blue prints and pretty colored maps and find out whether they can dig

holes big enough and wide enough to hold the waters of the Brazos, the Trinity and the Colorado and the Guadalupe rivers when they get on a big rise and hold the water so it won't overflow. And then they want to use the water that they have caught in these holes for irrigation in the summer time, hundreds of miles below. The college professor who said the farmers ought to put empty oyster cans over the young corn to keep the frost from killing it was no bigger fool than this crowd who thinks this can be done.

I warn the people right now to be on their guard against this contemplated raid on the treasury. Their preliminary estimates are that it will take two hundred and fifty million to get the thing started.

Department of Agriculture

The next item is \$152,000 for the Department of Agriculture. Lord, oh, Lord, what iniquity is wrought in thy name. How long will this extravagance continue in the name of the poor farmer, who, perhaps don't know what is going on? To begin with, I would veto the items of \$11,000 for chief of edible nuts and edible nuts assistants. This is a bunch of nuts sure enough. Likewise, I would cut out the item of \$15,000 for fruit and vegetable inspectors. I would cut out \$12,000 for nursery inspectors. I would cut out \$25,000 for traveling expenses and salaries in eradication of citrus canker. I would cut out \$15,000 of the traveling expense account. Another teat-sucker on wheels.

Railroad Commission

The next item is \$117,000 for the Railroad Commissioners. Even Earle Mayfield admitted that on account of the Esch-Cummins bill that the Texas Rail Commission could do nothing. If that be so, then why waste \$117,000 every two years on it? I would cut this appropriation in half and save \$58,000.

Another item is \$62,000 for the Industrial Accident Board. The chairman gets \$4,500 and two members of this board get \$4,000 each. The duties of this board call for no greater ability than that required of a district judge. I would therefore cut the salary of the chairman to \$3,600 and the other two members to \$3,000 each and thereby save \$3,800. This \$3,800 would keep two hundred children at school for eight months in the year.

Fish and Oyster Department

The next item is \$133,000 for the Fish and Oyster Department. This joke has been carried on long enough. I would fire half of this bunch and tell the rest of them to go to work and save \$62,000 more.

Warehouse and Market Department

Another item is \$177,000 for the Warehouse and Market Department. Their traveling expense item is \$35,000. I guess some of this crowd wants to go around the world. They spend \$18,000 every year to have inspectors go around and inspect scales and light and gas meters. They have actually got a radio operator at \$1,800 a year. They spend \$7,500 for stationery and printing in this department. They spend \$16,000 for warehouse examiners and there is not a half-dozen state warehouses in Texas.

I would abolish this department and let the service be rendered as a part of the agricultural department and cut the appropriation for such purpose to \$50,000 and save \$125,000.

Land Office

The State Land Office appears to be conducted in an economical manner.

Fire Rating Board

Another item in the appropriation bill is \$348,000 for the Fire Insurance Commission; \$55,000 of this

The most discussed question before the people of amount is for traveling expenses, \$60,000 is for printing and there are more different kinds of tax eaters in this department than you can shake a stick at. The argument is made that this board is self-sustaining because enough tax on the insurance companies is levied to pay the bill. If this is so, then no man would be so foolish as to think that the insurance companies would not have sense enough to add the charges into the price charged the people for insurance. So the people would pay the bill after all.

After years of observation and experience with the fire insurance business, I have come to the conclusion that this board is really the creature of the big fire companies. Without some legal sanction the companies were afraid to fix the fire rates by agreement for fear of being convicted under the anti-trust law. They brought about the creation of this board. And instead of relief, rates of insurance have continued to grow higher. I am reliably informed that some fire companies made over 35 per cent last year. There is now no competition in the fire insurance business. The big companies are satisfied. I think this board ought to be abolished and thereby save \$348,000.

Tick Catching

A most interesting item to some of us is the item of \$500,000 appropriated for the Live Stock Sanitary Commission; \$180,000 of this item for the animals known as tick catchers or inspectors, that infest the cowmen worse than the ticks ever did the cow. Now, listen. This crowd uses \$160,000 for traveling and other expenses. God only knows what those other expenses are. Now, listen again. This bunch are supposed to be cowmen. Yet they have \$5,000 for law enforcement.

After eight long years of bitter experience and careful observation and study, I now know to my own satisfaction that this tick eradication is an impossibility. The idea is not practicable and it is not supported as a theory. I would therefore veto all the expense of tick eradication and save at least \$300,000 to the taxpayers, and stop all this strife and ill-feeling that ought to stop.

Highway Department

Texas just now is the State Highway Department. This department has 100 employees in its office force at Austin, and it is now in the process of spending an appropriation of \$1,152,000 appropriated by the last legislature. They, too, have the traveling idea to the tune of \$50,000 for traveling expenses. The estimated receipts from auto taxes for the current two years is \$15,000,000. Of this sum, seventeen and one-half per cent is to be retained by the counties and the balance of eighty-two and one-half per cent is to be turned over to the State Highway Commission. With this sum, which is approximately \$12,250,000, is proposed that the state shall take over the maintenance of "state highways" as designated by said Highway Commission. A great many people are under the impression that the commission will take over the roads in each county. But not so. They will take over only such roads as suits them. The result will be that the fellows with the big cars and the truckers will have roads kept up for them to pleasure ride on and carry freight for profit and the people who don't live on these big state highways will just have seventeen and one-half cents out of every dollar they pay to keep up their roads with.

The Courts

The state appropriation for the support of the courts of the state is \$3,186,029 for two years. Texas is now in the throes of debt. When the people were prosperous they were perfectly willing to

increase the salaries of the judges from time to time. Now conditions have changed. The great concern of the hour is how to get the state out of debt. I have confidence in the patriotism of the judges who sit upon the benches in Texas. I feel that they will willingly agree that all salaries be reduced a uniform amount of fifteen per cent and thereby save the state over \$450,000.

Penitentiary

The legislature appropriated \$1,485,000 to keep the penitentiary system going. I will cut this item so as to save one million dollars. If the system is handed over to my administration free of debt then I promise to keep it that way. My record heretofore with the system should be some guarantee that I can make good my promise.

I will save the state at least \$1,000,000 of the \$1,485,000 appropriated by the last legislature. I will show my respect for Christianity by restoring the pardon board. I will hear the call of mercy and give due consideration to meritorious prisoners.

County Offices

As I have contended for years, the office of county tax assessor and county tax collector can be combined and the salary of two hundred and fifty officials in the counties of the state can be abolished and thereby save \$500,000. The collector can't collect until the assessor assesses and the assessor has nothing to do after he has turned the rolls over to the collector.

Higher Education

Let me again repeat with emphasis that there are too many people going hog wild about higher education. This disease first started in the University, but it has now spread to the whole family, the state teachers' colleges, the College of Industrial Arts and the A. and M. College now lead the procession as a spender of the people's money. I am not opposed to higher education if it does not get too high. And that is what is the matter now.

Let me give you some figures and deductions and see if you don't agree with me:

The State Teachers' Colleges of the state have now on an average one teacher to every fourteen students; and the students cost the taxpayers on an average of \$255 apiece a year. The average salary

paid in those colleges by the taxpayers is \$3,000 a year for nine months' work. The C. I. A. has one teacher to every eighteen students, and every student costs the people \$188 per year. The average salary for teachers is \$3,225 for nine months. The State University has a teacher to every thirteen students and each one costs the taxpayers \$300 a year, and the average salary for university teachers is \$3,000 a year for nine months. The A. and M. College has one teacher to every twelve students, and the cost to the taxpayers is \$452 per year for each student, and the average teacher's salary is \$2,800 for nine months.

The last legislature appropriated for the maintenance of its higher educational institutions, exclusive of buildings, \$5,200,000 a year for the 13,000 students attending same or \$400 per student per year.

The Common Schools

Now let us compare what we of the common herd get. There are 1,304,270 students in the common schools and there are 33,683 teachers. They get an average of \$509 a year salary. They teach an average of thirty-nine students. The per capita appropriation for each common school student is \$13. The total appropriation is a little over seven million dollars. Now, these figures are official. What do they show? They show that while there are one hundred students in the common

schools to where there is one in the higher educational schools, yet the common schools get only three one-half times as much money. While the higher crowd teachers get an average of \$3,000 for nine months, the common school teachers get only \$509. Notwithstanding this small salary, they teach on an average of thirty-nine students each, while the highbrow crowd teach only thirteen students. The highbrow crowd gets six times as much salary and the common school teachers teach three times as many scholars.

In other words, in the common schools where the children have no education one teacher can teach thirty-nine. As they go a little more to the high school one teacher can teach twenty-five students. But when they go to college and the university and normal schools, one teacher can't teach but thirteen of them. To make it plain, the more you try to educate the harder it is to teach them anything. Query: After all, does higher education educate? If we should give them one more degree we would have to enlarge the feeble-minded school.

In order to get the greatest good to the greatest numbers I would cut the University appropriation \$1,000,000. I would cut the A. and M. another \$1,000, and I would cut the other higher education institutions a total of \$500,000. I invite the other candidates to say how much, if any, they will cut.

The legislature appropriated three million dollars for the support of the public schools. If my plan hereinafter set forth to change the highway law and give the public schools three-tenths of the auto tax, is adopted, then we can save the \$3,000,000 appropriated.

The legislature also appropriated \$3,000,000 for the rural schools. But the law provides that schools having four hundred scholastics would participate in the fund. This is not the purpose of rural aid. The purpose is to help the smaller schools that need the help and can't get it any other way. I would cut this appropriation \$1,000,000, but provide that no school could have any of the fund that has over 200 scholastics.

Then we will get the money out in the country, where it is needed. The appropriation for the West Texas-New Mexico School of Technology of \$1,000,000 can get along with \$100,000 a year and we will have \$800,000. We will cut out any more \$50,000 for horticultural experiment stations. I will veto any more \$300,000 for normal school buildings and save that sum. We won't build any more \$110,000 buildings for the C. I. A. and save some money. We will cut out any more \$15,000 for experiment buildings at A. and M.

Other Appropriations

Yes, I will leap onto any more \$50,000 appropriations for educational survey with my veto tomahawk and cut it out root and branch. I will veto any more \$50,000 appropriations for revision of the laws of Texas. We had better repeal some laws and then it won't be so expensive to revise them and index them. We ain't going to have so much of this soldier and ranger expense, and I will save the people any more \$160,000 emergency appropriations to the adjutant general's department.

Likewise I am going to stop these enormous deficiency appropriations and save such sums as \$56,000 given by the legislature. I will veto miscellaneous appropriations that exceed \$250,000 and save \$600,000 over the last legislature.

I will veto as much more as I can consistent with the public duty and the public service. They way to retrench is to retrench. Do it and risk the consequences.

So it will be seen that I will cut the appropriations made by the last legislature by the round sum of \$15,000,000 (fifteen million dollars). Yes, from forty-four million to thirty-million—one-third re-

My record as governor in law enforcement was as good as Texas had before and better than she has duction. If a \$15,000,000 governor looks good to you just get behind me and we will bring home the bacon and the bananas, too. If other candidates or their friends try to attack my plan just ask them what cuts they are going to make and how they are going to reduce taxes. Let us have no more pussyfooting and deception about cutting down taxes. Don't let anybody say that I am wanting to be bigger than the legislature because I say I will veto these things. I am telling the people about it beforehand and if they elect me, as I am sure they will, then I am carrying out their instructions as well as my own promise.

Legislative Officers

It is therefore necessary that attention be given to the kind of people whom we elect to the legislature. I appeal to the people to elect at last one-third of the legislature in favor of this platform so as to keep my veto from being overruled by the spenders who might be elected. Elect more from the farming and laboring masses.

Other Taxes to Be Vetoed

I will also veto any other laws or bills that seek to raise taxes on anybody else or any other business in any great amount.

This fool tax business has got to stop, and the only way to stop it is to hit it where the chicken got the axe. I am also in favor of the repeal of the law permitting the issuance of any more tax-exempt state, county, city, school district or road bonds. I doubt if the people have thought of how these tax-exempt bonds are sapping the sustenance of the common people and the slavery that is being put on their children.

Tax-Exempt Bonds

Eleven billions have been issued since the war started and two billions were issued last year. Texas issued sixty-one millions in 1922 and forty-three millions in 1923. The rich gobble these bonds up as fast as they are issued and thereby escape taxation and the common people have to pay the additional amount of taxes. So we burn our candle at both ends. The rich saddle on us taxes and the grafters get the most of our bond money. The building of these four-year roads with forty-year debt is the greatest crime that is being committed on an innocent people.

Renters Directly Affected

Just here let me impress it on my tenant farmer friends and people who rent houses in town, that they are more vitally concerned in the high tax steal than anybody else. Just so long as you vote to keep this crowd in power that wants to continually raise taxes, just so are you arming every landlord with an argument to continually raise the rent. The bonus graft is again being practiced on tenant farmers and rents are getting higher in the cities and towns, and the reason advanced therefor is high taxes.

Let us cut taxes, and then we can, by law if necessary, restrict rents to the limits of reason. When we reduce taxes then I am in favor of reducing interest rates charged by any corporation, bank, trust or loan and insurance company to seven per cent and to eight per cent on loans by private individuals. To enforce these provisions I am in favor of a law with teeth in it.

The bank or corporation or individual who exacts and collects extortionate rates of interest that should go to feed and clothe the family is just as much an enemy to society as the saloonkeeper or bootlegger who sells liquor for money that should go to the family.

Law Enforcement

I am, of course, in favor of enforcing the law.

had since. But I did not take myself too seriously. I knew, as every man with a thimble full of brains must know, that if the people couldn't elect officers to enforce the law it is useless for one man, though he be governor, to try to do it my himself. When I was governor, I helped the peace officers elected by the people, instead of ordering them or demanding them to do anything. When trouble threatened I simply got in touch with the local officers and told them to call on me if they needed me and the result was that the officers either handled the trouble themselves or when I sent the rangers they went to co-operate with the local officers and we always got results. When this plan fails, it will then be time to set up the rule of the king and dictator.

Liquor Legislation Vetoed

Something to eat and something to wear having always been more important than a row over something to drink, I again say that I will veto any liquor legislation by pro or anti. Let us again pay some attention to the business and educational affairs of this state. Let us elect men to office on something else besides the wet or dry qualification.

Just let the pros set the example and the antis will be ashamed to violate the liquor law and the bootlegger will go out of business for the lack of business.

Highway Money

I would change the state highway law and give nine-tenths of the auto vehicle tax to the counties wherein the tax is paid and one-third of said sum to the public school fund, leaving one-tenth only to the highway department, whose function would be reduced largely to that of an engineering body to maintain uniformity of construction. This would keep all federal aid.

The idea of the state highway department at Austin keeping up and maintaining the roads of the wide domain of Texas is just the idea of an ignominy or grafter—I don't know which—but most likely it is a good deal of both.

If the time has come when the people of any county can't elect somebody to keep up the roads, then it is time to admit that local government by the people is a failure. If that principle is correct, then let us abolish the school trustees, the mayors and the aldermen and the city managers, tear down the county courthouses, abolish the officers and take orders from Austin by radio.

Ku Klux

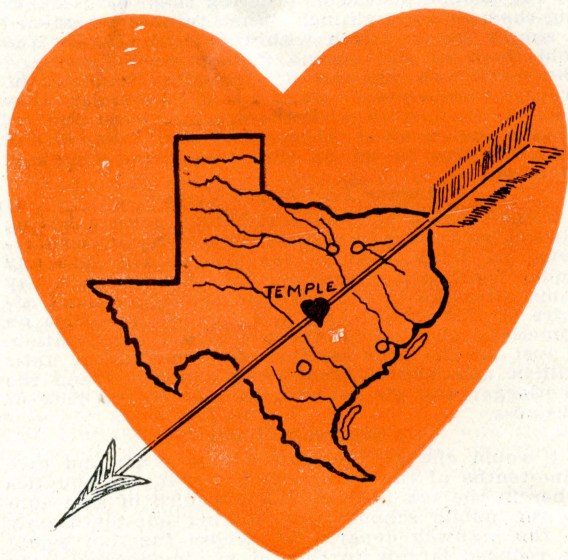
If a man is so narrow and so intolerant that he wants to believe in the principles of the Ku Klux that is his right and his business. But when he covers up his face and goes out in disguise to whip and assault some woman or murder and maim some man, then that is mine and every other good citizen's business and therefore I am in favor of a law that will punish by a term in the county jail any person over the age of 21 found in a public place with a mask on or in disguise, and where three or more persons over the age of 21 are found together in a private place with a mask or other disguise on, then I would give them one year in the penitentiary. Furthermore, I am in favor of putting any church property on the tax rolls at full value that is permitted to be used by parties in mask or disguise.

I am in favor of a strict law requiring all secret or fraternal organizations to file the names of their membership in the county clerk's office to be kept in a bound volume open to public inspection. Failure to file such names and proper certificate therewith to be a misdemeanor with heavy fine and revocation of charter.

Write me, brother, so I will know who my friends are, and we will get together and start this campaign for real relief and real reform.

JAMES E. FERGUSON.

11 Temple, Texas.



A STATE

In the Heart of the World

A TOWN

In the Heart of the State

A CANDIDATE

In the Heart of the People

