

From *W. H. Marshall*Date *12-2-25*

# Charges Ferguson Were Justification

## Am Publisher Replies to Demanding His Resig- nation's Public Statement

A. G. Carter, chairman of the Texas Technological College, whose resignation was demanded by Governor Miriam A. Ferguson, announced today in the following

"Governor Miriam A. Ferguson,

"Austin, Texas.

"Dear Governor:

"The charges contained in your letter published in the press of the state asking for my resignation as a member of the board of directors of the Texas Technological College, are malicious and without justification.

"The extreme conscientious sense of duty, which you so gallantly refer to with so much regret, is nothing more than a smoke screen to divert the mind of the public from the real issues. My appointment was made by Governor Neff for four years, two of which I have yet to serve. I fully appreciate the responsibility and dignity which naturally accompanies a position of trust of this kind. The Texas Technological College has started out as a real institution, capably managed throughout and as chairman of its board of directors, I could not countenance any confusion of side line issues interfering with its growth and development.

"I recall, as many others do, Governor Jim's past activities with respect to our educational institutions, especially the Texas University and with consequences of his actions in mind and their effect on the growth and development of these institutions. I seriously question the wisdom of your counsel, which, from your statement, is doubtless influenced by Governor Jim.

"Administrations may come and go, but these great institutions will go on forever, and I feel the responsibilities of those administering them should go directly to the people served by them and not to the particular administration which happens to be in power. If there is one point on which the people of Texas are in accord, it is that our educational institutions should be divorced from politics. Under the circumstances I am compelled to decline to accede to your request for my resignation. Meanwhile, if the board of directors, or the management of the Texas Technological College, or the people of Texas should feel that this institution would be benefitted by my resignation, I would gladly resign.

"Respectfully,

"AMON G. CARTER."

### STATEMENT

A statement addressed by Carter to the people of the state follows in part:

"To the People of Texas:

"Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad. It is as true now as when the adage was first uttered and it would appear to fit the case of the governor as though the classics had the present situation in mind.

"The demand for my resignation as a member of the board of directors of Texas Technological College, coming as it does at this juncture of time and circumstances, is simply a huge barrage to hide the real intent and motive that lurk behind it.

"It comes with poor grace to assert that now for the first time 'Governor Jim' has learned of certain things which he now proceeds to denounce with smug unctious as contrary to good morals.

"I say 'Governor Jim' with no purpose to wound the sensibilities of the good lady who is the nominal governor of the state, but to indicate the real actor who like a ventriloquist behind the scenes puts his voice and his words into the figure on the stage.

"In truth, the things to which the governor refers, on account of which my resignation is demanded, represent ancient history, and an effort to make fiction out of fact and lend to an innocent social entertainment the complexion of a violation of the law.

"I have no apology to offer to the fact that I acted as host on a certain occasion in the city of Fort Worth, when distinguished men and hundreds of guests assembled in Fort Worth to learn of the hospitality that awaited them from the chamber of commerce of which I chanced to be its representative at that time. I was general chairman of the committee that succeeded in bringing to Fort Worth a party of men celebrated the world over as leaders in great commercial enterprises, and the story that this entertainment violated the law is but another effort to divert the public mind from the real issues that now challenge attention on every hand.

"Usually, the zeal of a reformer comes by slow stages and his past has a background for very much of what he chooses to accomplish, but when the conversion is so sudden and abrupt that it marks an acrobatic performance, then indeed, people look askance and wonder

what prompted the peculiar antics

of the performer.

"The occasion, obviously, to which Governor Jim' refers was that of the entertainment of the American Petroleum Institute in the city of Fort Worth in December, 1924, and it comes with exertmely bad grace to belie the hospitality of Fort Worth and to charge that all the guests who assembled there, numbering men in all walks of life, were part conspirators in violating the law of the land. In very truth, there was no violation of the law and there could have been no such action as charged, because present with this party were members of the law enforcement departments of both county and city.

"I have been actively identified with the Texas Technogical College since the instituiton was created, having been elected chairman of the board of directors at a meeting in Sweetwater in the early part of 1923 and ever since that time, without a penny of expense to the state, I have dedicated the very best of which I was capable to the service of the institution, so that, together with my associates, I could assist in promoting an avenue of education for the youth of Texas.

"I recall in this connection that when the original cornerstone of the college was laid the 'governors' elect had been invited to be present, but neither Governor Jim nor his wife chose to accept the invitation, and when later on in October of the present year, when the college opened with a phenomenal enrollment of 9906 students, our 'governors' were invited again to participate in the celebration connected with the opening of the college, but they and each of them failed to appear.

"If may be a trifle, but trifles sometime show which way the wind is blowing, that Governor Ferguson, in making mention of the college described it as the West Texas Technological College, when the lawmakers and all the people know that it fulfills a much wider scope and destiny than that, because, by law, it is designated as the Texas Technological College."