

# HOGG BROTHERS

HOUSTON

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## AN INTERVIEW

Today, when asked about the published reports that he was underwriting or joining in underwriting the mileage and per diem expenses of the special session of the Legislature about to convene to investigate the Ferguson Administration looking to the impeachment of the Governor, *W. C. Hogg replied:*

"What I know about any sort of underwriting of the expense of the special session comes from the papers, although I daresay I would join in such a guaranty at the request of the Speaker and a majority of the House of Representatives, who now seem impelled by patriotic duty and an aroused public opinion to investigate the Ferguson Administration. *Doubtless many members can and will finance themselves and certainly the neighbors and homefolks of nearly all the others will see to it that their representative, Ferguson or anti-Ferguson, shall not be shut out of the show for lack of railroad fare and board at Austin.*

"However, I would heaps rather join a syndicate to pension Jim and turn him out to grass with plenty of money which he appears to love very much—plenty of money to keep him from practicing influence as an attorney—plenty of money to pay off the mortgage on the beloved Bosque Ranch every birthday—plenty of money to issue The Forum on sheepskin without suggestive solicitation of anxious advertisers—plenty of money to give every appointee and favored contractor a surety bond without price—plenty of money to syndicate freely the supposed sentiments of 'Ma' to the world's newspapers with the Poet-laureate of England as amanuensis instead of a poorly paid hack—plenty of money to support the role of country banker and farmer, unmortgaged and underborrowed—all of which as a business proposition I think would be cheap for our State at quadruple the price.

"I am inclined to agree with Farmer Jim that this is a situation for a healthy, honest, untiring grand jury, for it is probably as ridiculous and as sickening as ever confronted an American Commonwealth. A majority of us knowingly elected a rubber-stamp as governor and are now told that the weary rubber-stamp is blameless for the misfeasances of its chief. The morale of Texas politics is at a low ebb when a menacing minority of the Senate may and actually do represent certain clients before the Highway Commission and other Boards appointed and dominated by Governor and Governess Ferguson. Farmer Jim (and please put the first 'r' in 'farmer' in the right place) may soothe his soul quite a bit with the belief that if he has done anything, to say the least, distasteful and cheap to besmirch the fame of Texas and to degrade the dignity of the Governor's office, he has enough side-kicks in the Senate to block any impeachment which, under our Constitution, requires two-thirds or more of the Senate.

"*Yet it will be a long, long time before Framer Jim can laugh off the detracting and distressing imputations now in circulation, whether just or unjust, because the people are beginning to hark back to the record he made on his own as Governor and the disclosures that were made in the impeachment of his own official acts by the 35th Legislature in 1917. Framer Jim simply has been running nonchalantly true to his real form with gleeful unction that he is immune because he is acting entirely in his private capacity. Now you see it and now you don't.*"

also  
an afterthought