

From DallasDate 12-10-25**MRS. FERGUSON DECLINES.**

Governor Ferguson thinks that the need to appropriate additional funds for the eradication of the cattle tick is not urgent. That, too, is her opinion as to the need of appropriating funds for carrying on the campaign against the foot-and-mouth disease. As to the highway laws, there appears to her no need of any degree to revise them. Accordingly, she has concluded not to call a special session of the Legislature. The premises support the conclusion abundantly, it must be admitted. None of those needs, nor all of them together, supply adequate occasion to impose the expense of an extra session of the Legislature on the people.

But, one is apt to demur, there is adequate and even imperative occasion in the need to investigate the affairs of the Highway Department since Mrs. Ferguson has been Governor, and that, therefore, the reasons which she has given for not calling a special session, while valid, are not sufficient to justify her refusal. And that is so. But the fact is that an investigation of the affairs of the Highway Department was not one of the tasks assigned to the special session by those members of the Legislature who asked her to call it. If she has dodged the issue, she has done it no more flagrantly than her petitioners. If the reasons she has given for not calling a special session conceal the motive of her refusal, the reasons which her petitioners gave for wishing a special session concealed their motive for desiring it no less. They at least can not complain that she has evaded.

Most people, The News believes, feel that the mismanagement of the affairs of the Highway Department since Mrs. Ferguson has been Governor has not been fully revealed by the work of Attorney General Moody, and that it can not be by the work he has yet in hand. Out of that feeling there has grown the natural desire to have a special session of the Legislature. That desire Mrs. Ferguson has thwarted to the extent of her ability. She must know that the effect of that decision will be to give wider and deeper currency to the suspicion that the worst about the affairs of the Highway Commission has yet to be disclosed. If they should conclude that Mrs. Ferguson prefers the damage which that suspicion may do to the fame of her administration to the danger lurking in an investigation, she will have only herself to blame. She, or rather her husband, has declared that the contract with the American Road Company was a wise and virtuous one which ought not to have been canceled. If she believes that, she had an ample reason for calling a special session, even though the purposes set forth by her petitioners gave her none. If the contract with the American Road Company merits the tribute Mr. Ferguson gave to it, she would be the heroine and Mr. Moody the victim of the investigation. One can only marvel that she put aside an opportunity so luscious.