

From Address

State of Texas

Date 12-2-25

REFUSES TO QUIT AS TECH REGENT; DENIES CHARGES

Claims Effort Is Made to Divert Attention

(By Associated Press.)

FORT WORTH, Tex., Dec. 1.—

Amon G. Carter, chairman of the board of directors of the Texas Technological College, whose resignation was requested Monday by Governor Miriam A. Ferguson, will not accede to her request, he announced in a formal letter to her and in a statement to the public issued here Tuesday afternoon.

The letter and statement deny all the charges made by the governor and declares that this is an effort on the part of the Ferguson's to divert attention from the highway disclosures.

The statement and the letter addressed to the governor follow in part.

"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.

"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 benefited by my resignation, I should gladly resign."

Move Called Barrage.

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

"The demand for my resignation as a member of the board of directors of the 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.

"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 a fact and to lend to an innocent social entertainment the complexion of a violation of the law.

"I have no apology to offer for 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 a representative at that time.

"The occasion obviously referred to was that of the entertainment of the American Petroleum Institute in the city of Fort Worth in December, 1924, and it comes with extremely 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 and therefore, the accusation is false and flat.

"Nothing that I did was cloaked or concealed from the public, because it was the public that was in attendance at this banquet and I much prefer the approval of those good people to an indictment by 'Governor Jim.'

His Conscience Clear

"Certainly, I did not seek in any way to prevent the dissemination of any fact that took place at this banquet and nothing was laid upon my conscience since that time that would warrant me in employing lawyers to obstruct the consequences of anything I had done or sanctioned.

"Nothing can be clearer than the fact that 'Gov. Jim' is desperately trying to build a smoke screen to obstruct the eyes of the people of Texas so that they may be turned aside from the true version of what has lately taken place in the Highway Department and the efforts of Attorney General Dan Moody to bring

to light much that had been hidden from the public knowledge.

"I have been actively identified with the Texas Technological College since the institution 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.

"Gov. Ferguson relates an incident which happened at College Station in the progress of the football game between A. & M. and the University of Texas on Thanksgiving Day and points to the atrocious fact that I was reported to have admitted yelling 'hurrah for A. & M. and Dan Moody.'

"Is it any more of an offense against law and morals to toss up one's hat for Dan Moody than to obstruct the Attorney General in his suit against highway contractors? The story that I was under the influence of liquor when I cried out on the one hand for A. & M. and on the other for Dan Moody, was not only false in every particular, but could only be supported by the conclusion that, to the mind of 'Gov. Jim' anyone who declared for Dan Moody was either drunk or crazy.

"As a taxpayer and as one who had paid his way into the football game, I reserved the right to shout for A. & M. very much as I had done in times past and particularly to hurrah for Dan Moody because of his energetic activities and courage in protecting the taxpayers of the State.

"While the charges contained in 'Gov. Ferguson's' letter were slanderous in the extreme and libelous per se, they were printed in full in the newspapers with which I am associated as a matter of fairness, and my rights under the libel law I gladly waived as far as other newspapers were concerned, in order that the Governor's statement might have the widest publicity."