

From _____

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Editorial of the Day

IT'S TOO LATE NOW, LYNCH

What is troubling Davidson is that his pussyfoot attitude has risen up to mock him. He didn't come out flatfootedly and denounce the Ferguson administration and the highway scandal at the time it broke because he didn't think that after such revelations the Fergusons would dare run again. He didn't want to alienate any possible Ferguson support. He didn't want to commend the uncovering of the scandal too strongly right then because it might start a boom for Moody for governor. He tried to straddle, because he was thinking of his own political fortunes; and like every candidate that tries to do so, he has received the worst end of the deal. He became lost in the shuffle and now finding that the highway issue is still the big thing (he thought it would have been forgotten by election time) and the big issue a case of Moody or Fergusonism, he wants to praise Moody for breaking the ring and uncovering the scandal but to condemn him for the settlement he made.

It's too late now and Davidson will find it out to his sorrow when the returns come from next Saturday's election. He will find that a middle of the road, pussyfooting attitude won't go with Texas voters when millions of dollars of the taxpayers' money are being wasted. He will find that the public won't take seriously claims of unusual business ability, when the man making them doesn't denounce in unmeasured terms such unbusinesslike methods as letting the public contracts at unreasonably high prices, without bids and without bonds. Davidson wouldn't do that in his own business, if he is half the business man he says he is, and the public expected him to denounce it when it was done in the public's business. And denounce it at the time; not at the tail-end of a political campaign when political expediency demands it.

Davidson lost his opportunity of getting in the run-off and possibly of winning the nomination early in the year. Had he denounced the highway scandal in the strongest terms and praised Moody for his work, as other public men were then doing, citing it as evidence of the need of a business man in the governor's office, he would have made the issue between Davidson and Ferguson, and the Moody support of today would have gone with him. In fact, Moody would not have been able to make the race in such a situation. Moody recognized this himself. He waited for Davidson to make plain his attitude on the highway situation. He gave him every opportunity to make it an issue between himself and Ferguson and then when Davidson failed to do so, Moody announced.

Davidson lost his own opportunity, but he has no one to blame for it but himself. Moody gave him every chance and he failed to take any of them. Now it will do him no good to talk about the highway scandal or denounce Moody's statement as a "lie."

Davidson made his own political bed and he must lie on it.—Fort Worth Star-Telegram.