

The Ferguson Forum

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INTEREST



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25,000 GREET THE OPENING OF FERGUSON CAMPAIGN AT SULPHUR SPRINGS

James E. Ferguson Stirs Democratic Enthusiasm

Sulphur Springs, Tex., May 26.—This historic city of some 6,000 normal population was overwhelmed Saturday, May 22, with a throng that is estimated to have exceeded 25,000 persons who came to greet Governor Miriam A. Ferguson and her husband, Former Governor Jim Ferguson, at the opening of the governor's campaign for re-election.

It was a representative gathering of democrats who love Texas and believe in its traditions, its history and its splendid citizenship. It was the largest crowd ever assembled in Texas for the opening of any candidate's campaign and mingling with the throng were men who had been at Sulphur Springs 40 years ago when Sul Ross opened his campaign for governor here. For hours before the time of the speaking the roads leading to Sulphur Springs were alive with autos speeding to the scene and shortly after noon the Bell county motorcade of forty or more cars headed by the Temple Municipal Band, winner of first honors in the recent band contests at Waco, threaded its way through the jam in the streets and drove to the magnificent home of J. K. Brim, where Governor Ferguson and her party were being entertained during their stay here.

A brief concert was given and a short address was delivered by State Senator P. B. Ward, of Cleburne.

The thousands who could not get within hearing or seeing distance of the speakers of the afternoon were given an opportunity to see their governor and cheer her as she and Former Governor Jim Ferguson and their party, in open cars, were driven through the streets and public square of the city after the speaking at the tabernacle. The seating capacity of the tabernacle is estimated at 12,000 and there was not an inch of space unoccupied during the speaking although the afternoon was hot and the sun beating down upon the corrugated iron roof of the building made it sultry and uncomfortable beneath.

The crowd was chiefly composed of farmers, their wives and children, men in blue shirts and women wearing old fashioned gingham, all sturdy and bright-eyed, good humored and earnest in their expressions of support and sympathy for the first woman governor. Eloquent and outspoken in their approval of her administration, they did not hesitate to declare their intention to vote for her and give her the second term which has been the record in Texas through generations.

The Sulphur Springs News-Herald in its report of the opening of the Ferguson campaign says:

Governor Ferguson was greeted by 25,000 people from all over Texas Saturday when she came to Sulphur Springs to open her campaign for re-election as Governor. The cotton shed which had been arranged to seat 12,000 people was literally crowded to capacity long before the hour for the Governor to begin her address. People stood as far out as the loud speakers could be heard, and still other thousands came back to town because they were unable to get within hearing distance of the speaker.

Gov. Miriam A. Ferguson's Speech

ALMOST two years ago the Democrats of Texas nominated me as their candidate for Governor. Under unusual conditions I was elected. So far as was in my power, the records will show that I kept every promise to the people. I have recently, in a public platform, given a full account of the accomplishments of my administration. I invite a careful reading of this statement. If any voter desires a copy I will be glad to furnish one to any address on application to me at Austin.

The records will show that during my first administration appropriations have been reduced *ten million dollars* under the preceding administration, and all deficiencies of former administrations have been paid. The State has been put on a cash basis and on May first there was more than *seven million dollars* in the Treasury.

The insane have been taken out of the jails and put in sanitary and comfortable asylums.

The prison system of the State is now paying its way and this administration has paid more than *Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars* of the former debts of the system.

The public schools of the State received \$14.00 per capita during the current scholastic year and with the large cash balance in the Treasury the same amount will be available and probably \$15.00 can be had. This will insure an average school term of seven months.

Every department of the state government, except one, has acted in harmony with each other.

The first week I was in office I was informed that the Attorney General would be a candidate against me for a second term. At first I could not believe what I heard. But just as soon as a bill was introduced to clear my family name from the stigma of impeachment the Attorney General began to throw the powers of his office against the accomplishment of that which was dearly sought by me and my family.

Failing partly in this he then began his attack on the Highway Department. I appointed lawyers to appear in court and answer his charges. He denied my right to appear and he denied the right of the Highway Department to appear and defend itself. He then for five months neglected the duties of his own office, and by every way and means in his power sought to bring indictments against some official under my administration. In this he signally failed.

He sought to set aside the action of the Text Book Board appointed by me in the adoption of

text books. He and State Superintendent Marrs worked unceasingly together in a fruitless attempt to set aside a solemn and binding contract made by the State for the purchase of free text books for the children of Texas. Again the Attorney General failed and the Supreme Court decided against the Attorney General and the State Superintendent in language so plain as to cause embarrassment to both of them.

Now since the Attorney General has announced against me for a second term, it is quite plain what has been in his mind through all these meddlesome activities against my administration.

He now claims that there has been brought to bear upon him an irresistible pressure and demand for him to run for Governor to keep the State from going to everlasting destruction.

With the avowed purpose to slander my administration he has raised the cry of honesty in office and says he must answer the great cry of the people for his services. I shall put his sincerity to the test. If my administration has been so bad and so dishonest and if the people as he says are just crying for him, then I ought not to stay in office one minute longer than the people shall speak on the question.

If, on the other hand, he has raised a false cry and has made a false charge, then he ought to get out instead of me.

So I make this challenge to the Attorney General. The primaries come on July 24th. Regardless of the result, he and I could stay in office until the second Tuesday in January, 1927. *But I will agree that if he leads me one vote in the primary that I will immediately resign without waiting until next year, if he will agree that if I lead him 25,000 votes in the primary on July 24th he will immediately resign.* If the Attorney General is brave, a great service can be rendered to the people by getting rid of a very bad Governor as he claims, or getting rid of a very incompetent Attorney General as the people may decide. Come on, Mr. Attorney General, and let us stop the pain.

The Attorney General seems to have a great complaint against my husband because I sometimes take his advice. He has censured him most bitterly. Although my husband is a private citizen and does some things that do not suit the Attorney General, he seems to think that qualifies him to be Governor. I am going to ask that you hear my husband, your friend, in his own defense.

Mayor J. Bert Thomas presided at the meeting and introduced Uncle Ras Hopper, pioneer citizen and dirt farmer who is 76 years old and life long democrat. Mr. Hopper paid a beautiful tribute to the Governor whom he declared one of the greatest Texas ever had. He was liberally applauded as he finished his speech and presented Mrs. Ferguson as the next Governor of Texas. The applause was loud and long as Governor Ferguson rose.

A challenge to resign with the odds 25,000 to one was issued to Attorney General Dan Moody, gubernatorial candidate, who has criticized her administration, by Governor Ferguson, in her address. She said that Moody had the avowed purpose to slander her administration and that she will put his sincerity to test. She declared that if her administration has been so bad as Moody has asserted that she should not stay in office one minute longer. So, she said, if he has raised a false cry and false charge, he ought to get out instead of her.

"So, I make this challenge to the attorney general," the first woman governor of Texas said. "The primaries come on July 24th. Regardless of the result he and I could stay in office until the second Tuesday in January, 1927. But I will agree that if he leads me one vote in the primary that I will immediately resign without waiting until next year, if he will agree

that if I lead him 25,000 votes in the primary in July, he will immediately resign."

She said that if the attorney general is brave a great service can be rendered the people by getting rid of a very bad governor as he claims, or getting rid of a very incompetent attorney general as the people may decide.

At the close of Governor Ferguson's speech ex-Governor James E. Ferguson arose amidst loud and prolonged applause and spoke.

There never was a campaign inspired by more little men and bigger liars in the history of this state than Dan Moody's, Former Governor Ferguson said. "They offer no constructive policies to the people, they make no successful complaint against this administration, they prove nothing, they say nothing and by the eternal Gods in heaven, they are nothing," he said.

The full text of Former Governor Ferguson's speech is as follows:

My Friends:

I aint no poet. But some fellow said:
"There is a land of pure delight
Where rules the immortal van
There is a heaven for black and white
But there aint no place for Dan."

Dan has joined the witch burners and turned his back on the pardon spirit of his Savior and consigned himself to eternal perdition. As he condemns Ma for the pardon of others he can not expect Old Peter to pardon him.

Daniel Jiggs Moody is a newly wed that is now committing the unpardonable sin of taking advice from his wife. Although condemning women for taking advice from their husbands, he has thrown up the sponge in deep despair and submits to feminine dictation in his own household. Dad burn him I dare him to deny it.

Moody's campaign was daddied in the evolved monkey end of the Baptist church and boosted by the Ku Klux Klan and supported by the big oil companies opposed to the gasoline tax. Let everybody keep their shirt on and I will prove all three propositions before I get through.

Moody says he will not throw mud. I won't either. I am going to throw rocks. I regret to have to do it. But soft words and kind words would fall upon the deaf ears of this crowd that have gone up and down this state and told more deliberate plain bald faced cheap falsehoods than were ever uttered by any crowd in any age or country in the memory of man.

I shall meet this crowd before the people of Texas face to face, and it shall be a case of "Lay on McDuff and dam be he who hollers calf rope or take him off."

Let me begin with the first proposition. Recently in the Fort Worth Star Telegram, a Ku Klux-Butte paper, the following appeared: "Baptists For Me Dan States. Austin, May 14. Attorney General Dan Moody, candidate for Governor, returned today from Houston and Galveston and said that 'The Baptists are sure for me.' The Southern Baptists are in convention. However his mission was not political." Look around over your state and almost invariably without exception you will find the so-called modern progressive Baptist preachers that have forgotten the old time religion preaching for their new found hero Daniel Jiggs Moody. They claim that Moody is up to date, that he is the brightest and the smartest and the prettiest young man of this day and generation. Look among the evolution Baptist preachers who supported Felix Robertson and Butte two years ago and you will find them popping off in this campaign and telling the people that young Dan Moody is the Thomas Jefferson of the age and the savior of all mankind. The same Baptist hierarchy that two years ago argued to the people of this state that the democratic pledge was a scrap of paper and that they could not be bound by their promise

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