

Note —
Extra carbon beneath

April 28, 1919.

My dear Miss Beveridge:

Your letter and one from Miss Blanton have certainly "disturbed the even tenor fo my way" and I marvel that neither of you two brilliant and devoted Suffragists realize that in the present upset state of affairs the question of the soldier vote is one which is entirely too hot to touch unless the whole thing had been previously worked out very carefully and you were sure that there was time and strength could be mustered in the Legislature to put the thing through.

The Legislature cannot amend the Constitution. There is not time for the necessary legal publicity for an election on the matter. It takes a two-thirds vote of each house of the Legislature to submit a Constitutional Amendment even if there was time to have it voted on, and it is by no means sure that two-thirds could be found to do it. Also the Legislature cannot submit a constitutional amendment at a special session, and if it could, we would have to stop our Campaign, with the election less than one month away and do Legislative work to get it thro.

We deplore the lack of the soldier vote and have deplored it from the house tops. We endorsed the law which the Governor vetoed. BUT since he vetoed it, it seems to me the gravest error in policy for us to complicate our campaign with the question. You see, the soldiers cannot vote and the Governor and his friends are in power all over the state. You are in a measure representing the Texas Equal Suffrage Association, what you say will be interpreted as the policy of the organization, that being the case, I greatly regret any action which you have taken in public or in conference with Mrs. Connery and others, and I beg that you will side step the question from this day forth except to say that we have every confidence that the soldier vote would have been with us and that we are sorry that they cannot vote.

Very sincerely yours,

President.

P. S. The law in question carried the emergency clause and went into effect as soon as the Governor signed it.