

25 February 1969

Mr. H. Malcolm Lovett  
Chairman  
Board of Governors  
The Rice University  
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Lovett:

As you know, the Trustees of Rice University, in the exercise of their exclusive right and responsibility, did me the honor of electing me president of the University. My election to the presidency is an honor I will always cherish, and I am deeply grateful to you and your distinguished colleagues for the confidence you have placed in me.

Nonetheless, I do not believe it to be in the best interests of the University for me to undertake the duties of the presidency in the midst of controversy related to the method of my selection. To do so would create unnecessary dissension among the University's community of governors, faculty, students and staff.

Entirely upon my initiative and responsibility, therefore, I submit my resignation effective this date.

My most cordial best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

/s/ William H. Masterson