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Letter to Dr. H.A. Morgan from Tennessee Governor with Enclosed: "Coal Purchased for the University of Tennessee"

Tennessee Executive Chamber

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Dear Doctor Morgan:

I am enclosing anonymous paper which has been received in this office. In returning it to me I know you will be glad to give me the exact facts and I will take some steps to correct the implied implication in this paper.

Kindly return it with your reply. I do not suppose you pay any $3.00 for coal. We are selling it below that price at Brushy Mountain. Certainly an implication of this kind should not be tolerated. The facts should be given to the public.

Let me hear from you on this matter.

Respectfully,

Governor.
COAL PURCHASED FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE.

Question: How does the University of Tennessee buy their coal?
Answer: They give it to whoever they want to.

Question: When was their old contract up?
Answer: July 1st.

Question: When did they give contract for next year's supply?
Answer: About May 15th.

Question: This was Forty Five days before the old contract was up wasn't it?
Answer: Yes Sir.

Question: What did they pay for their Steam coal?
Answer: $3.00 Three Dollars per ton F.O.B. mines.

Question: What is the prevailing price on this class of coal.
Answer: $1.75.

Question: About how much tonnage do they buy?
Answer: It is estimated they buy Twenty Thousand tons.

Question: How much bonus did they pay?
Answer: Something like $20,000.00 bonus.

Question: Who is supposed to look after this business?
Answer: Nobody seems to know. Its directors are business men who haven't time to tell their wives howdy or good-bye when they leave. It is a rich institution and does not need any endowment. It looks like the President of the University is asleep on the job.

Question: Wouldn't it be customary for all State Institutions to advertise a large contract like this?