

Professor Crump is quoted in a letter in Sunday's Houston Chronicle by retired director of the Program on Law and Technology Charles Walter.

## **HOUSTON CHRONICLE**

**Oct. 25, 2009**

### **Perry's action raises doubt**

In "Misunderstood" (Letters, Page B17, Oct. 18), my colleague **David Crump** points out that no one in the press seems to have reported on the evidence that would answer that big-picture question, "Did Texas execute an innocent man?" (Cameron Todd Willingham). Specifically, **Crump** points out "... the hardest thing to prove, if it was arson, is, who did it?" Indeed, it would be impossible to prove who did it if there wasn't arson. One reason doubt remains as to whether it was arson is because Gov. Rick Perry interrupted the work of the Texas Forensic Science Commission while it was looking into that very question. I too would like to know what that evidence is before I shoot off my mouth. Surely we are entitled to a governor who is at least equally committed to the continuity of determining the most important threshold fact in capital cases as he is to declining to exercise his constitutional executive power to do justice and allowing the execution of a sentence, which cannot be reversed ("Perry uses clemency sparingly on death row," Page A1, Oct. 18).

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