

Copy of letter written by Will Rogers to President Hoover

Dear Mr. President:

There is an old boy school mate of mine in jail in Arizona. Now I guess the usual procedure is to say that he didn't do a thing in the world and shouldn't be there. But I expect he did, it's not a case of Mistaken Identity, as nobody else looks like him, but he is not a bad fellow. And like all fellows that get in trouble he has a family, and they need him worse than the jail does. And he ought to be out working his ranch. They say he had some "mescal" in his possession. Why, that's the staff of life in that country - what's the matter with Arizona, are they becoming effeminate? I don't think he sold any of this; in fact, it's so common, there is no sale for it. But he has suffered enough. And if he did sell any, or give any away, the fellow has suffered more than him, so I guarantee if you let him out he will go on a coca cola diet and vote the straight Republican ticket.

He would never have been convicted if Rockefeller hadn't been so long making up his mind. Why a man should want to be out of jail these hard times is more than I know, but he always was a bit of a comedian. He is one of the few men in jail whose wife would welcome release, so that makes him another novelty. He was raised with Pat Hurley. Pat got in the Cabinet and him in jail. I am going to write you a letter and try and get Pat out too. I sure don't want to go back on any of the old friends. Sure thank you, Mister President, for anything you can recommend in regard to this fellow. I wouldn't have bothered you but I knew it was your slack season and you wasn't very busy there.

Yours,

Will Rogers