

January 22, 1931.

President Herbert Hoover,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. President:

Your cordial, interesting letter of January 16th, regarding old fashioned Americanism, has been received.

I have, also, read with interest a copy of President Grover Cleveland's message to the House of Representatives February 16th, 1887 which carries a very sound American doctrine and, incidentally, places an entirely different construction upon the matter and the view I had previously held.

Shortly after sending you the wires, Will Rogers called me on the telephone from Washington and stated he had just had an interview with you in which you had explained why you felt it necessary for the Red Cross to perform this service to the destitute farmers and that, under the circumstances, he thought best for us in Texas to use his lectures in connection with the Red Cross drive, turning all of the proceeds over to the Red Cross fund. Incidentally, Mr. Rogers is paying all of his own expenses.

Frankly, I must confess that I had not looked at the matter in this light and feel under the circumstances you are entirely right and consistent in your views. However, if you will recall in my telegrams I stated "if there is justification for Congress appropriating forty-five millions for crop loans to drought-stricken farmers there should be justification for appropriating ten or fifteen millions more to feed these same farmers."

This brings up another question, which, as I recall, you stated to me during my last visit to the effect that the States should handle these matters themselves. After further consideration, I am inclined to think you are correct in this statement. However I felt that it would probably be impossible to prevail upon the State legislature to appropriate this money and inasmuch as there seemed to be a determined move on the part of Congress to appropriate funds for this purpose we, naturally, worked along the lines of least

resistance and permitted them to go ahead and do so. Therefore, I am delighted to confess that even a Democrat can change his mind and we are accordingly getting in behind the Red Cross drive in keeping with your idea and hope to raise our quota of this fund.

You state in the first paragraph of your letter that you regret I cannot support you and I hope I did not convey this idea in the telegrams which I sent you as I have stated, privately, and publicly over the radio that you have been the victim of an unfortunate condition which prevailed throughout the country at the time you stepped into office. Regardless of whether Republican or Democrat you are my President and I expect to support you on every consistent thing possible. Of course, having been a Democrat all of my life, raised up in a Democratic country, publishing a Democratic newspaper, I may hold views on some things which differ with your ideas; at the same time, I accord you credit for being sincere in your views and an effort to be a practical President for all the people.

Please pardon the length of this communication as I realize you are extremely busy. At the same time, I want you to know that you have my sincere best wishes, as well as my sympathy in these trying times, which, no doubt, will soon fade from the picture. And once back upon a normal basis, we can look back on 1930 and wonder how it ever happened.

Enclosed, herewith, you will find a copy of an editorial which appeared in the Star-Telegram Wednesday, January 21st, which I thought might be of interest to you.

With best wishes and the hope that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you soon, I remain

Most sincerely,