

April 8, 1935.

Mr. Will Rogers, PERSONAL,
Beverly Hills, Calif.

Dear Will:

Following my talk with you last night, I took the children to see your show and they were delighted. The house was packed and the audience was more enthusiastic than any I have ever seen. They had better crowds than they had on your "Judge Priest" picture - even during the races, which is a handicap to theater attendance.

A lot of my friends, who heard your radio talk, gathered the impression that you indicated that I was, or at least our paper was, not enthusiastically supporting the President. While, it is true you referred to newspapers the inference might be that we were included in the list. On the contrary and speaking frankly, we have refrained from saying some things which we conscientiously felt should be said. However, we know the President is doing his best and we are hoping that he will dispense with some of the pet ideas and theories of some of his cohorts.

I wired Congressman Buchanan, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee, regarding the processing tax and I enclose, herewith a copy of my reply to his answer, which in a way briefly covers my views on some of the disturbing things confronting us at this time. Even though business may, in many cases, be doing better than before - that is better than 1932 - a great deal of the improvement is due to a shot in the arm, which does give temporary relief; however, we know sooner or later we must clean the patient's system out and cure the cause of the ailment which necessitated the shot. Therefore, we have considerable anxiety over the final outcome. Of course, we are like everyone else, as long as they are spending the money as indicated in your radio talk we are naturally going to make a fight for our share of it.

We are not complaining about taxes. On the contrary, we realize the necessity of taxes and

liberal taxes, at the same time if this is to continue the government must give legitimate business, generally, an opportunity to earn the taxes. The government, through the PWA, is encouraging the building of utility plants even in cities where there is no occasion to replace the privately owned property.

The tendency is for the government to eventually own the railroads. If this idea should finally prevail, the the cities, counties and states would be deprived of the biggest portion of their income from taxes, as the government would pay no taxes. This in turn would force the burden of the lost taxes on the part of the public in general. As indicated in my letter to Congressman Buchanan, merely because some youngster in school chisels on his lessons is no reason for the teacher to close the school. There should be adequate and just punishment, regulation and the elimination of unsound practices on the part of holding companies or big business. Given an opportunity, business will purge itself of most of its ailments. As stated to Mr. Buchanan, it is a difficult matter to legislate people into society, prosperity, honesty or heaven. If Congress would adjourn, go home, give business an opportunity I think we can fight our way out. Most of us get out of our troubles if we do not depend too much on some one else to do it for us. It is like a man depending on his relatives for his living. He will never be worth a damn until his relatives shake loose and put him out on his own.

I received an invitation this morning from Colonel McCormick of the Chicago Tribune which is original and at that is probably true:

"Interlude -

The honor of your company is requested at the only annual gathering in the world that is not trying to mind someone else's business."

The affair referred to is an annual luncheon given by Colonel McCormick of the Chicago Tribune and Joe Patterson of the New York News each year at the Publishers' Meeting. There are no speakers, introductions, toastmasters or anything but a few cocktails and some real good grub.

I started out to send you a copy of my letter to Buck and I am having a difficult time finding suitable terminal facilities to close the communications - so, I will stop. But, before doing so, I think your stunt on the Rogers plan will be a knockout. You can elucidate on it, and change it from week to week. As you state, no matter what they offer you will do better. Frankly, I am sure you will have more people following you than either one of them. After all, the only mistake made by Barnum was that he was very modest - instead of one sucker born every minute, there seems to have been thousands and thousands of them, who are willing to fall for most any kind of hokey or Huey, or anything else which indicates they can get something for nothing. If we divided all the money in the United States it would only give us about \$45.00 a piece and on this capitalization no one could own a Russell picture or even a suffed yearling for roping.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

AGC.KD