

THE WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL COMMISSION  
570 LEXINGTON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Officers

Hon. John N. Garner, Hon. Chairman  
Fred Stone, President  
Owen D. Young, Vice-President  
Oscar Lawler, Vice-President  
Rex Beach, Vice-President  
Ulric Bell, Vice-President  
Jesse H. Jones, Treasurer  
James G. Blaine, Ass't Treasurer  
E. V. Rickenbacker, Secretary

Wickersham 2-3988

JUNE 24, 1938

Executive Committee

Owen D. Young, Chairman  
Amon G. Carter  
Will H. Hays  
Patrick J. Hurley  
Jesse H. Jones  
Ulric Bell  
John W. Elwood, Secretary

MR. AMON G. CARTER  
FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

DEAR MR. CARTER:

I AM ENCLOSING HERewith A COPY OF A LETTER WHICH  
I HAVE SENT TO MR. JONES.

I AM ALSO ENCLOSING A WAIVER OF NOTICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22,  
WHICH I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SIGNING AND RETURNING TO  
ME.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

*John W. Elwood*  
JOHN W. ELWOOD

RECEIVED  
JUN 27 1938

JUNE 23, 1938

MR. JESSE H. JONES  
RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE CORPORATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEAR MR. JONES:

I DON'T RECALL WHETHER OR NOT YOU WERE IN THE ROOM YESTERDAY WHEN MAJOR THOMPSON MADE THE SUGGESTION TO MR. HAYS THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIVE CIRCUITS IN NEW YORK MIGHT BE THE BEST ONES TO WORK OUT AND ADMINISTER THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE \$50,000, OR \$1,000 IN EACH STATE, FOR THE AID OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN. THE POINT THAT HE MADE WAS THAT IF THE THEATRE CIRCUITS WORKING WITH THE INDEPENDENT THEATRES ADMINISTERED THIS MONEY AND GOT THE PUBLICITY FOR IT THAT IT WOULD HELP TO MAKE THE INDEPENDENT THEATRE OPERATORS AND THE CIRCUITS MORE COOPERATIVE IN THE NEXT TWO DRIVES.

I THINK THERE IS A GREAT DEAL IN THE POINT WHICH MAJOR THOMPSON MAKES BUT I DO HOPE THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMISSION WILL GIVE VERY SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE ALLOCATION AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF THIS MONEY.

AS YOU KNOW MR. HAYS HAS INFERRED THAT THE THEATRE CIRCUITS WILL NOT CONTINUE THEIR ANNUAL WILL ROGERS WEEK AFTER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. ASSUMING, AS I THINK WE MUST, THAT THEY WILL NOT, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IN OUR DISTRIBUTION OF THE \$50,000, WE MUST DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE NOT ONLY TO KEEP ALIVE THE NAME OF WILL ROGERS BUT TO BUILD UP THE NAME OF WILL ROGERS AND THE CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE COMMISSION WAS FORMED IN ORDER TO HAVE AN ANCHOR TO WINDWARD.

I FEEL THAT THE DISTRIBUTION OF THESE MONEYS SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF A LOCAL COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF A LEADING DOCTOR, A LEADING CHURCHMAN, A LEADING THEATRE OPERATOR AND THE PUBLISHER OF THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER. EVERY TIME AN AWARD OF MONEY IS MADE TO A CHILD, IT SHOULD BE MADE FROM NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS AND WHEN THE AWARD IS MADE APPROPRIATE PUBLICITY SHOULD GO TO THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER AND THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION SHOULD OF COURSE BE PUBLISHED IN THE RELEASE.

THE MOTION PICTURE CIRCUITS HAVE DONE AN EXTRAORDINARY JOB IN THEIR OWN FIELD UNDER MAJOR THOMPSON'S DIRECTION, BUT I FEEL THAT THE COMMISSION HAS OVERLOOKED THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING A WELL ROUNDED CONTINUOUS PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN.

IT IS EMBARRASSING FOR ME BECAUSE OF MY RELATIONSHIP TO MR. YOUNG TO INJECT MYSELF INTO THIS SITUATION BUT I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF WORKING OUT A COMPLETE PUBLICITY AND FUND RAISING PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION AND IF I DID SO, I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS ADMINISTRATION.

WHETHER OR NOT THIS SUGGESTION IS CONSIDERED, I WANT TO ASSURE YOU AS ALWAYS OF MY CONTINUED INTEREST IN KEEPING THE WORKS, LIFE AND PHILOSOPHY OF WILL ROGERS ALIVE.

WITH KINDEST PERSONAL REGARDS,

SINCERELY YOURS,

JOHN W. ELWOOD

- COPY TO: MAJOR L. E. THOMPSON
- PATRICK J. HURLEY
- AMON G. CARTER
- WILL H. HAYS
- ULRIC BELL
- OWEN D. YOUNG
- JOHN A. GIFFORD
- W.C. COSTELLO

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, BEING A MEMBER OF THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL COMMISSION  
DO HEREBY WAIVE NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF SAID EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON JUNE 22, 1938 AT 4 P.M. IN THE OFFICE  
OF MR. OWEN D. YOUNG, FORTY-SEVENTH FLOOR, 570 LEXINGTON AVENUE,  
NEW YORK CITY AND DO CONSENT TO THE TRANSACTION OF ALL BUSINESS  
THAT MAY BE PLACED BEFORE SAID MEETING.

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