

MOTION PICTURE PRODUCERS & DISTRIBUTORS OF AMERICA, INC.

28 WEST 44TH STREET

NEW YORK CITY

WILL H. HAYS
PRESIDENT
CARL E. MILLIKEN
SECRETARY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 27, 1940

Hon. Amon Carter,
Fort Worth,
Texas.

Dear Mr. Carter:

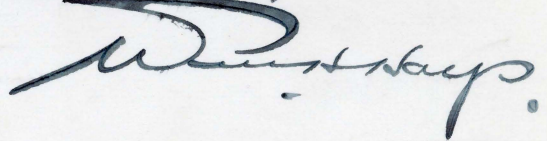
PERSONAL

Herewith memorandum relative to the contribution to be made by the Will Rogers Memorial Commission to the Motion Picture Relief Fund, Inc., providing for the establishment of a Will Rogers Memorial in the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in Los Angeles. This reviews the steps taken, describes the instant situation, and indicates steps immediately to be taken toward effectuation of the matter.

I have forwarded similar memorandum direct to Colonel Hartfield and will, of course, cooperate with him in the pursuit of the matter. Copy of the memorandum has also been sent for the Motion Picture Relief Fund and the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



MEMORANDUM IN RE: CONTRIBUTION FROM WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL COMMISSION TO MOTION PICTURE RELIEF FUND, INC., PROVIDING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL IN CEDARS OF LEBANON HOSPITAL, LOS ANGELES.

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Upon the approval today by the executives of the motion picture companies members of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc., of certain steps heretofore taken in the subject matter, including the assumption of potential obligations by such companies, it now is necessary for the following steps to be taken:

(1) The preparation of an agreement between the Will Rogers Memorial Commission and the Motion Picture Relief Fund, which will provide in a proper manner for the contribution from the Commission to the Fund under the conditions heretofore discussed;

(2) the preparation of the agreement between the Motion Picture Relief Fund and the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital providing for the establishment and maintenance of the Will Rogers unit in the hospital under the terms and conditions of the understanding;

(3) upon the execution of the contracts (1) and (2) and upon the conclusion of this year's Drive and the distributions consequent upon it, the contribution of \$100,000.00 is to be made directly by the Commission to the Relief Fund; any difference between the Commission's share of this year's Drive and \$100,000.00 to be provided by the motion picture companies. This involves a formal meeting of the Will Rogers Memorial Commission to conclude the matter, which can be held upon the payment by the Drive Committee to the Commission of the Commission's share of this year's Drive.

It is to be remembered:

(A) That a presentation has heretofore been made to the Executive Committee of the Will Rogers Memorial Commission which set out that:

"A great number of Californians, including many among the motion picture contingent in Los Angeles and Hollywood, have held and expressed the feeling that, despite and in addition to the scholarships established at the University of California, there should be in the state in which he lived most of his later years and in the community of his

friends in the profession where so many of his interests lay, a more intimate type of memorial to Will Rogers.

"Motion Picture production is centered in Hollywood and Los Angeles, and it is here that the people of his profession whom the living Will Rogers knew best still succeed or fail, enjoy comfort and health, or exist in poverty and suffering. Alive, no ill or unfortunate member of his profession ever found the purse or the heart of Will Rogers closed against him. It is believed that nothing would please Will Rogers more than to have his memory strong enough to bring aid to those he knew, when they desperately need help.

"It is felt that funds for such an object might well come from moneys which are collected wholly through the medium of motion picture theatres in a program to which Will Rogers' name is related and in an effort in which the Will Rogers Memorial Commission has the leadership and where for the ultimate good accomplished the Will Rogers Memorial Commission would be responsible.

"Fortunately, at this time an opportunity to effectuate the objective seems to be at hand. The Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in Los Angeles is in process of developing additional capacities for service and it is possible now to arrange with such hospital for the endowment of ten (10) beds in such hospital for the permanent benefit of the sick and the needy of the motion picture industry; that these beds, or the rooms or wards which they comprise, and the service which they will render shall be a permanent memorial to Will Rogers and to be known as such, which memorial while permanent would never be static; that the contracts incident to such endowment would provide for the use of facilities approximating those connected with the use of the beds in the French Hospital in New York; that the necessary money, fixed at \$100,000 with which to provide such endowment would be given to the Motion Picture Relief Fund, Inc., to be used for the specific purpose of the endowment, and may, under proper safeguards, be given by the Fund to the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital.

"Because this money, under the contracts between the Commission and the Theatre Circuits, cannot legally come from the sums set aside for the Will Rogers Memorial Hospital at Saranac and the properties connected with it, but could only be donated from the Commission's share of the 1940 collections, it is suggested and requested that the Commission give the \$100,000 required, under the following conditions:

"If the Commission's share of the 1940 collections shall amount to more than one hundred thousand dollars, that sum only shall be given to the specified project and all moneys above that sum shall go to the Commission's other purposes;

"If the Commission's share of the 1940 collections shall amount to less than the one hundred thousand dollars necessary, this entire share and amount shall go toward the endowing of the beds in the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, and the difference between such a sum and the hundred thousand dollars required shall be made up and donated by the motion picture producing companies;

"The Commission's agreement to give this money toward the beds in the hospital in Los Angeles, for a purpose which would approximate the use of the beds in the French Hospital in New York, shall be wholly contingent, of course, upon a 1940 Will Rogers Week in the Theatres this Spring, and upon the amount of money which accrues to the Commission thereby, under its contractual agreements with the circuits.

"It is believed that the acceptance of such a plan by the Commission is likely to stimulate this last Drive for funds, please those in the industry who feel that a great motion picture charity has been unfairly confined to the East, since production is almost entirely in the West, and to which charity the production factors of the industry have contributed so freely and extensively in time, service, and expense incident to the preparation of the pictures used in the Drives and otherwise. And, finally, it is respectfully urged that this particular action will, per se, be a most proper and worthy gift entirely and sympathetically consistent with the Commission's purposes."

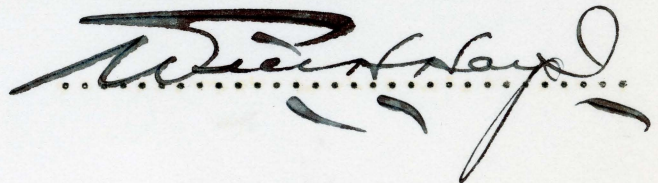
(B) That this presentation was authorized by representatives of motion picture companies members of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc., after discussions by Mr. Harry M. Warner with the representatives of the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, the President of the Motion Picture Relief Fund, the President of the Actors Guild, which representatives of such institutions advised Mr. Warner of their approval of the plan, which approval Mr. Warner reported to the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc., in New York. Also, after consideration by and upon the recommendation of the Special Committee of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc., studying Motion Picture Relief and Security, consisting of Messrs. George Schaefer, Chairman, Barney Balaban, and Joseph Hazen; and after the approval of the plan in principle by the representatives of the companies in Hollywood; and also after discussions in New York with Mr. Edward Arnold of the

Motion Picture Relief Fund; also, after consideration of the matter and approval thereof by Senator J. Henry Walters, President, and Harold Rodner, Executive Vice-President and members of the Executive Committee of The Will Rogers Memorial Fund, Inc., and Major L. E. Thompson of the Board of Directors of The Will Rogers Memorial Fund, Inc., and the director of the Memorial Drives.

(C) That upon such presentation to members of the Executive Committee of the Will Rogers Memorial Commission and consideration given by them, approval of the plan was given by Messrs. Owen D. Young, Chairman, Jesse Jones, Amon G. Carter, and Patrick J. Hurley, all members of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee of the Will Rogers Memorial Commission; also careful consideration of the whole matter and approval was given by Colonel Joseph M. Hartfield, the legal advisor to the Commission; also, the undersigned, in presenting the plan to the Commission, signified approval and recommended adoption of the plan as a member of the Executive Committee and Director of the Commission.

(D) That the understanding upon which the commitments were being made and all action taken is that the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, upon the payment of the sum of \$100,000, will provide a Will Rogers Memorial in said hospital by way of a permanent endowment of ten beds in said hospital in perpetuity with hospitalization; and with the further understanding upon the establishment of such facilities that any and all further obligations incident to the use of such beds and facilities will be the responsibility of the Motion Picture Relief Fund to whom the money is donated for this particular purpose by the Will Rogers Memorial Commission; that the Will Rogers Memorial Commission shall have no obligation in the matter aside from donating the sum of money under the agreement heretofore mentioned, and that in consideration of the gift to the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital through the medium of the Motion Picture Relief Fund, the wards and beds thus endowed and the hospitalization in connection therewith shall be regarded, in the same perpetuity, as in the nature of a memorial to Will Rogers, and there shall be in connection with them suitable markings and announcement to this effect.

(E) That the understanding is that all necessary agreements to effectuate the arrangements shall be prepared and executed as soon as possible and shall be of a nature satisfactory to The Will Rogers Memorial Commission, to the Motion Picture Relief Fund, Inc., to the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital authorities, and to the motion picture companies involved members of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc.



April 26, 1940