

July 28, 1942.

Mrs. Will Rogers,
445 Ocean Front,
Santa Monica, Calif.

Dear Betty:

Mike Fanning of the Beverly Hills Citizen just called me up regarding Will Junior's campaign for Congress, stating that he was a Lieutenant in the Field Artillery and was not making an active campaign, however that he (Mike Fanning) and some of his friends were carrying on for Will and brought up the question of whether we could raise any money in Texas and Oklahoma.

I told him frankly that while everybody loved sweet ol' Will and appreciated Will Junior that most everyone in this day and time is being importuned for money from so many angles that it is difficult to get a hold of sufficient amounts to take care of our requirements; furthermore, that most of the people were not very much concerned about who should be elected to Congress as day by day in every way we were all being faced with troubles of our own more or less with the accent on the more.

Meanwhile, I am naturally interested in any matter concerning Will and am enclosing, herewith, my check for \$250.00 made out in your favor. You can endorse it and turn it over to the proper authority. It is a real pleasure to do this.

I also suggested to Mr. Fanning that he write a letter to Harry Sinclair, to Frank Phillips, Lou Wentz and Will Hays and I should have told him to write Jesse Jones. I would like to suggest that he add that name to his list and that he may tell them what the circumstances are and the fact that Will's friends are carrying on the campaign for him while he is tied up in the Army and furthermore to tell them that I suggested he write them and, incidentally, could tell them that I had sent a check for \$250.00. Above all things, to state to them that this was the committee's idea and was not suggested in any way by you or other members of the family - this in a sense of fairness to you.

If Will should be elected, I feel quite sure he could do a good job for his constituents and the country as a whole.

By the way, I had Electra Waggoner send you the pictures made of the statue of Will and suggested that she ask you to show them to Oscar Lawler and Silsby Spaulding and to be sure that none of them got in the newspapers in any way. The statue is now being cast and the small, four foot, one is almost complete that I am going to send to Claremore to the Rogers Memorial. However, I do not want to send the small statue until after the large one has been dedicated in Fort Worth. It is my desire that this should be done, if possible, on his birthday, November 4th, and even though it is during the war I am anxious to have a substantial bunch of Will's good friends present for the occasion.

Incidentally, we still have the portrait of Will painted by Seymour Stone in the Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum which has never, as yet, been dedicated. In other words, the picture has a curtain hanging over it awaiting a time when either you, or Mary or some member of the family should be passing through here. It would probably be better to do this sometime prior to the dedication of the statue.

Although I would not have suggested that Will run for Congress, as long as he is in the race I would like to see him elected.

About two months ago, I met Harry Warner one night in the Colony Restuarant in New York and he devoted most of his time in selling me on the idea that Will Junior should play the leading role in the new Will Rogers picture. Mr. Warner sated they had tested Will both for sound and pictures and that he was 100%; furthermore, he felt he could play the part better than anyone else, but that Will did not want to play the part. In fact, he asked me to try and prevail on Will to accept the part which I never did as I felt that Will was old enough to make the decision for himself. Personally, I should like to see him do so very much.

I hope you, Mary, Jimmy, Will and all of you are fine and with much love, I remain

Sincerely,

AGC.KD