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UA68/6/2 Correspondence

Kelly Thompson
WKU President's Office

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October 10, 1960

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WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

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The Congress Debating Club
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Gentlemen:

I have received from Dr. Willson E. Wood a letter which I am now quoting:

"Dr. Kelly Thompson, President
Western Kentucky State College
Bowling Green, Kentucky

"Dear Dr. Thompson,

"First I want to say that my association with the Congress Debating Club has been a long and happy one, dating back to my own student days at Western and including approximately ten years of sponsorship. Now that I am thinking of giving it up, I do so with considerable regrets and only because of the pressure of other duties and because at the present moment I feel that we have available a man who will bring to the Club the talent, the enthusiasm, and the leadership which will enable it to continue to be a superior organization.

"Considering these things, I want you to accept my resignation as sponsor of the Congress Debating Club, and at the same time I would like to suggest that you consider Dr. William Jenkins for the place. Were it not for the fact that you know Dr. Jenkins as well as I do, I would enumerate a convincing list of talents, interests, and qualifications which make him the logical choice for the position.

"I assure you, however, that the Club and its sponsor, whom-ever you appoint, shall have my fullest support and best wishes for a vigorous new development and a continuation of its prestige and high position among the extra-curricular activities of the Hill.

"Respectfully yours,

/s/

Willson E. Wood"

October 10, 1960

Following the receipt of the letter from Dr. Wood, I have held conferences with both Dr. William Jenkins and with Mr. William Rudloff, who served as your Vice President during the spring semester of last year.

I am happy to tell you, and I am sure you will be happy to know, that upon Dr. Wood's recommendation, upon the concurrence of Mr. Rudloff, as a student representative, and with a feeling of personal enthusiasm, I have appointed Dr. Jenkins to be your faculty sponsor. In making this appointment, I would like to comment that, in my opinion, you will experience both outstanding accomplishment and outstanding challenge in the months which lie ahead.

I have a personal and abiding interest in the Congress Debating Club. When I was a student at Western, I was a member of the Congress Debating Club, and I have always felt that the contribution which it made to my life was one of great value. I am sure that under the sponsorship of Dr. Jenkins, the Congress Debating Club will continue the worth-while and dynamic influence upon our students which has marked it throughout its history.

Western is grateful to Dr. Wood for the fine leadership which he has given to this organization during the past ten years. His duties, as head of the Department of English, are now such as to make his decision logical in every way. It is my opinion, however, that he would not have made it at this time had not Western had a person of Dr. Jenkins's caliber as a possible successor.

With every good wish for the continuation of the future success of one of our most outstanding student organizations, I am

Sincerely yours,

Kelly Thompson
President

KT/gb

cc: Dr. William Jenkins ✓
Dr. Willson E. Wood