Memorandum: Talk with Towsley, December 8, 1930

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Memo of Talk with Towsley - December 8th, 1930

Young lawyer, perhaps thirty - thirty-five. Came with portfolio, I take it to find out what I knew about Young and whether he could help on the legal end. He comes in on the universalist end of the Young investigations. His father a clergyman, up state, now I think near St. Lawrence. He graduated from Tufts College - studied law. First met Young when he was an instructor at School at Tarrytown, where Charles Young was a pupil. Says Young has always recognized him when he ran across him, which I take it is not often. His recollections of these meetings are quite clear. He tells of being at the of a new house and Young coming in after the first Industrial Conference. He seems to think that these connections with Conferences in were political. I tell him that they grew out, in my judgment, of Young's connections with war work, that he, like other men of affairs, was summoned to aid the Government. He would naturally impress his colleagues, always does. How much he knew Wilson I don't know. This is one of the things I must find out. This talk makes me feel that there is a nice story in the development of Young's relations with both Democratic and Republican Administrations. They needed him in such Conferences as Wilson's on Industry and Harding's on Unemployment, that he has been one of the men that they naturally thought of when there was a difficult piece of work on hand.

Towsley is quite determined to find a political reason for these various activities of Youngs. Thinks he is a political ambitions. I do not find that so far. As a matter of fact, it seems to
me up to date that politics have not been in any sense a major interest with him. That he is doing nothing, has done nothing to date to push the interest in him as a Presidential candidate. Towsley thinks he is also asks him if I am comparing him with Lincoln. Tell him I think that is silly, though as we talk a little more I tell him that I have already compared somewhat the way they attack apparently a problem - same way. Young's mind works more rapidly than Lincoln's did because he has had more cultivation but it is not a rapid working mind - it sifts as Lincoln did - considers - ponders and like Lincoln when it comes to real conclusion hangs on.

I let fall the remark that I think Younglin handling people has considerable humour, little malice, does not take himself over-seriously in his human relations, that he is like Lincoln in that. But that to push a parallel of this kind is dangerous business. The records on Lincoln are all in, those on Young are only partly in.

We talk on the legal side. I tell him, so far as I see now, the two trials on which I should concentrate are those in connection with Stone & Webster, very involved which led Coffin to call him to the General Electric.

And the second and his greatest is that in connection with the radio. But this trial should be studied very thoroughly. T. thinks that the office that Young was in in Boston would yield material. I tell him that if I find out, after a visit there; that there seems to be something worthwhile that I might pay his expenses
for a few days of investigation. He is willing to undertake that and says he will do it - go at any time. I also tell him that I might, but cannot say as yet, ask him to help me on the radio trial, by studying the briefs, but that this cannot be done unless it is entirely agreeable to the G. E. office as I am using their records. He agrees to this.

T. is evidently is a little dubious about Young's position on water power, but I think he doesn't know so very much about the facts in the case. He also thinks that he is a strong prohibitionist. Got this from Dr. Frank Hall.

Dr. Hall is a universalist clergymen - intimate friend of Y's. and his wife. They go there regularly to church when in town. T. says that Young has proposed to make the church here a community center for St. Lawrence and Tufts graduates, both being universalist colleges.

T. is interesting on the relation of the universalist and unitarian churches to the liberal development of religion in up-state communities. Thinks because of them that we have come to a point where in most communities it would be possible to have one community church. Says that he considers that the work of the unitarians and universalists has been done practically, that is, they have been a liberal in religious life.

Says that Niel Barney, general counsellor of the Worthington Pump Company, here in New York, knew Young well in Boston and it was Y. who recommended him to the Company where he now is. Thinks it would be well for me to talk with him.

I take it that the only documents that T. has gathered
Towsley (Continued)

concerns the Dawes Plan. He has the plan itself with considerable editorial comments.

Asks me if this is true, that every night in Paris Young listened in to the radio reports from Germany. Tell him that I think that is doubtful as Young does not speak German or French, at least I am so told, but that he very carefully studied these comments brought to him by someone, probably digested them, if true. I remember, though I do not tell T. this, that Case told me that his chief business during the Paris work of Young was to radio every night to Young a full digest of American comments on what was doing in Paris.