Note: [Reflection of Owen D. Young biography] September 27, 1933

Tarbell, Ida M.
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It has been many months, close to two years since I think since I have seen Mr. Young. / that time a strange, almost unbelievable change, had come into his fortunes. Who could have believed when my sketch was published in June of '32 that he would have practically of no opportunity to contribute his experience and of his unselfish goodwill to the man nominated on the Democratic ticket, that ticket on which he might himself have figured in a close place, possibly, if he had been willing to fight for it as a politician must.

Who would have believed that when the new administration went into office that he would have no @&ale of responsibility. True certain things have happened between June '32 and March '33 that would make a President perhaps hesitate. But I can't help feeling that a man who is better able to weigh, perhaps less jealous where a rival was concerned, even if it were so generous a one as Mr. Young, would have at least been given some sort of recognition. He had been kicked - I use the word advisedly, I think, at least that is the way I feel about it - out of the Radio Corporation which was in so large a degree his creation. It strikes me an incredible @judgment that he should have been displaced there, his experience and his integrity being what they are,
as well as what he had done for radio. Of course the Insulin connection left a bad taste in their mouths, but here again anyone knowing Mr. Young and knowing the relations of the E.E. to the utilities that Insulin had so played with could certainly understand how a request for a loan would hardly have been refused.

A few months later when the President's right hand man, Howe, was caught engineering/contract to a friend and Roosevelt, himself, had disavowed the contract—while there was criticism—he was not cast into utter darkness because of it. There was much less propriety in that contract than in what Young did. Of course I have always been a silent opponent of the privileged list, and I dislike Young's name on Insulin's privileged list, much more than I did his just spending the money. There seems to me to be a real impropriety and I wish he had been more sensitive to that, although the fact that he was not has not changed my judgment about him as a man of unusual ability, character, a sense of forgiveness in the matter of human relation, unselfish, a wonderful pacifier....

All this I think has told upon him. There are more wrinkles, both horizontal and vertical in his forehead. He is heavier, doesn't look quite so ruddy as I would like, but so far as manner and voice, temper, good sense and humor are concerned he is quite unchanged.
I saw him in his new office, been there only a few days. Beautiful building, a real success I should say in the modern thing, forty-eighth floor, with one of the most marvelous views north and east that I have seen. I think he has only been in a few days. Case has left, only two or three days ago. Miss Morrison was showing me the view when he came in, laughing and friendly as ever, it was really as if we were saying Good morning out at Chandler. He comments on the long time that has passed and the fact that this is another world. I tell him I don't know where I am, I am not at all sure that the thing for me is to drop out, go to the country, read books and laugh at the human show. He says that for the first two years after this began he did all he could to stay it, helped Hoover who was trying to fight back the avalanche which he says had engulfed him.

I get a strong impression that the avalanche has not engulfed Young, though he says, "I have made up my mind to watch the thing, that you simply can't do anything - nobody can stop it."

We talk of the NRA. When you look at the details he says, you are in despair, but when you consider the general trend and idea you cannot but realize that something good is working. I tell him that I have been impressed that what is doing is like a big round-up, things that we have been working at for years are being pressed into final action now,
child labor, sweat shops. He says with that quickness of
his to catch on, "that's what it is - a round-up."

We talk of the sweat shop. Somehow it must
be done away with. He speaks of his horror at the wages,
the hours that women were receiving. Said that he could
not believe it until the figures were put before him.

I say I don't think the NRA will every be
carried out by force. It must be co-operative. He says, "Yes, but
that there are certain points at which nothing but force will
work. Employers/having signed the code are evading its
provisions. He speaks of the incredible racketeering
of certain employers ruining decent business, that there is
no underhanded tricks that they are not capable of and that
from ten to twenty percent of men now in business probably
should in the interest of healthy industrial life be
cut out, done away with, racketeers and chiselers.

I ask him if he expects a labor war, speak of the
movement to use the A. F. of L. by the radicals. He says
that Green doesn't like it but he can't help himself. He
has talked with him. He says that as far as the strikes are
concerned that he thinks they should be outlawed, forbidden,
that the machinery for arbitration is being set up and that
they could be compelled to use it. Says we are compelled to use
it in every other branch of our lives and he thinks it could be
done in industry. One of the great criticisms of industry -

the huge profits are by codes made impossible. That
takes one of the great causes of discontent from labor; these
He feels that
profits are going into the higher labor mates. /invasions
on either side should be dealt with similarly. Does not
like the word boycott. He says he thinks he sees the
President's point and that he shall tell him that he believes
in the outlawing of the strikes now that a respectable plan
for handling difficulties has been developed and accepted.

He talks about inflation. Thinks the difficulty
is in the control of it, that inflation is in the hands of
politicians - a big disaster. It means that they would
insist on an issue if you asked for an issue. As fast as
one was clearly needed those should be demanded and

I ask him if he ever thinks we may go communist.
He says, "I wouldn't be surprised." Then he corrected himself.
He said, "Yes, I would. When you come to study people as they
are. Everitt and I were talking about it the other day at
Van Hornesville and I said, now take this community, you talk
to these people here even to the teachers in the school about
communism and they don't know what you mean. It is not in
their minds, in their experience. Fifty percent of our people
are like that."

I think he is right. We talk a little about
the tremendous advantage of free development of individuality.
Is there such a thing? We talk a little of destruction of crops, etc.

When you got an immense consuming public you can only get at it I tell him it quite difficult surprises me that the Government should buy pork, for example, and destroy it when people are hungry. Why don't they buy it and give it to them?

He feels displaced a little in the world, not as much as I do, I take it, but somewhat uncertain. He says, "I am going up to Schenectady Friday night to talk to the four or five hundred young engineers we have up there. They tell me they have been disturbed about their future so I said I would go up and talk with them." And then he looked at me with sudden seriousness. "What am I going to say to them?" Well, I said, what can you say to them?

I said I am not sure there is a place for anybody in the present world. I am not sure but that we have to go back to pioneering, begin over again. As I see the world the hard thing is youth that is going to suffer most. The older people can set aside, go without. But years are behind them. I feel today that I was a fool when I talked at the Pearl Buck luncheon and said that youth was not afraid. As a matter of fact youth on the whole is not concerned, but there are groups that are conscious. There is no doubt
that Young is busy with all kinds of things which interest him. Will Hayes was on the wire while I was there. "You don't know how much he interests me," Young said. "Very amusing person. He is wild about salaries in the movie business, says that they have got to come down, that it is outrageous and he says it is." He tells me how the Radio Corporation, because of certain apparatus - I do not understand it - that have been developed by them and the telephone, decided that the movie industry had the best facilities for development, and there is some kind of an arrangement in the making. When they came to look for a manager or a head of the new arrangement in movie land Mr. Young said that there wasn't a man that was at all possible, even low down in the organization, that did not have a salary greater than that of the head of the Radio Corporation. The salaries are fantastic. He says there are camera men who because of some star will not have anybody else, and demand salaries as great as that of the Radio Corporation.

"Of course this has all got to be changed," he said. And Hayes is acting. There is considerable telephoning back and forth while I am there. Everybody calls him by his first name, "Will, David - who is Sarnoff, I take it. Robert is referred to several times - Swope, of course. Young says emphatically, "We have got to watch, Herbert is too enthusiastic,
not safe.

He feels that the world is a ticklish place to live in. Speaks of seeing a news reel recently - the Japanese Emperor reviewing a fleet - the strike in the coal regions - violence in Germany - violence in Russia. Mr. Young is as disturbed as he has ever been in his life but exteriorly he is the same leisurely, humorous person as ever. Very like this letter.