

New York, November 4, 1940

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Psalm 40:4 -- Ephesians 6:12-14

A thing that nobody believes cannot
be proved too often. ----- SHAW,

"Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their party". And I have noticed that you have come handsomely to the aid of Wilkie and the Republican party.

But there is Mr. OWEN D Young, the "retired" (?) Chairman of the General Electric Company, of whom you know so much that is just not so that in 1932 you wrote a book to tell it entitled "Owen D Young - A New Type of Industrial Leader".

Now doubtless you know that he is a Democrat in politics and that in Mr Roosevelt's previous campaigns Mr Young rendered yeoman service by making speeches of major importance in his behalf. In the present campaign, however, I have not seen anything to indicate that Mr Young is for reelection of F D R, tho without question he is. What can be the reason for his silence?

Well, it happened that on July 4, 1940 I wrote a letter to President Roosevelt about Mr Young as per copy enclosed; it speaks for itself, and in the fourth paragraph you will notice I mentioned your name and book. Presumably it was brought to the attention of F D R, which is perhaps why in the present campaign F D R did not care for Mr Young's public support, and also why there has been nothing in the papers since then about Mr Young's activities in the defense setup as assistant to Sidney Hillman.

Now again as to your book on Mr Young, you will recall I had a talk with you on October 20, 1939 by way of objection and reproof. I knew nothing about the book until I happened to read around April 20, 1939, in the NEW YORK POST May Cameron's review of a book of yours just then published, in which you mentioned the O D Y book. So immediately after reading the O D Y book I sent a red hot letter to Mr Young about it, as per copy enclosed, dated June 27, 1939. I am also enclosing other letters, which went along to President Roosevelt, as follows:

3. To O D Y, dated May 24, 1939, taking him to task for the LIBERTY magazine article of Jan 7 1939; this being my first letter to him, and which in its tone is provocative, militant, challenging.
4. To John L Lewis (C I O) dated Feb 21, 1940, commenting on the "cultural wage" passage in the LIBERTY article.

5. To Frank L Polk, dated Feb 8, 1940, concerning Mr Young's war services, or rather disservices of a "fifth column" nature.

You have particularly lauded Mr Young as a great friend of labor because of his lip service to that cause, so please read carefully the letter to J L Lewis.

The letter to Frank L Polk should serve to clarify some of the obscurity and euphemisms on pages 121 to 123 inclusive and the first paragraph on page 124 of your book.

On page 123 you brought in the name of JOHN W ELWOOD. Of course nobody told you that he is a cousin of Mr Young. It never occurred to you to ask why he was "sitting in the same office", at a time when most young men were shouldering a gun (as I was), or you might have found out that Mr Young put Elwood in his office so that he could evade or dodge the military draft, which in fact he did do, so that he was and is a SLACKER.

And nowhere ~~any~~ in your book was the name of ANSON W BURCHARD mentioned!!! He was senior in authority in the General Electric Co to Mr Young: in 1917-1918 he served in the War Department down in Washington, and it was he who ~~was~~ "functioned as a general liaison officer between the G E Co and various boards", not Mr Young as you say on page 121. In May 1922 he was elected Vice-Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the ~~General~~ Executive Committee, and by virtue of the latter office BURCHARD was the No. 1 man in authority, as C A Coffin always intended him to be!!! Apparently Mr Young would not disclose and admit that any other man stood higher in Mr Coffin's affections and esteem than he. *See his obituary, enclosed*

Finally on page 211 you said all kinds of ominous things: "watchful lest he be trapped into destroying himself.... I am curious to know how much more there is to him and where and how he will demonstrate it... the returns are not all in.... one safe conclusion is that C D Y is not as simple as he looks"

Well, your curiosity has been satisfied. What are you going to do about it? Are you going to let the gross untruths-- the damn lies-- of your book stand?

As for myself, having dared to attack Mr Young and impugn his patriotism, I seem to have some of the qualities you ascribed to Mr Young: "a terrifying sense of duty (page 86); ... fidelity to decision and the courage to act on his decision (page 111); always suspecting them (facts), challenging them" (page 112). I shall continue my polemics against him until I sink him into oblivion up at Van Hornesville, up around "the vile dust from which he sprung, unwept, unhonored and unsung", to use Scott's immortal words of the poem which is so appropriate to Mr Young.

Yours for truth,

Stephen J. Smitney

Stephen J. Smitney
231 West 69th Street
New York

IN MEMORIAM

ANSON WOOD BURCHARD

April 21, 1865
January 22, 1927

Anson Wood Burchard joined the General Electric Company in 1902 and served as Assistant to the President from 1904 to 1912, as Vice President from 1912 to 1922 and as Vice Chairman of this Board and Chairman of its Executive Committee from 1922 to the time of his death. Largely through his inspiration and effort the International General Electric Company was organized in 1919 to do our foreign business, and he served as Chairman of its Board of Directors from 1922 until his death.

Mr. Burchard was graduated from the Stevens Institute of Technology in the year 1885, and was an engineer in that large sense that he tested each new program, whether initiated by himself or others, by the fundamental principles of engineering, and if found sound and economically feasible, he not only supported it with matchless courage, but led it with patience, persistence and energy. Nothing was too large to be feared, and nothing was too small to be overlooked. This made him a master in the development of wise and ingenious plans to co-ordinate capital and engineering skill for the development of the electrical art and for its further application to human needs both at home and abroad.

With the increase of years and means, he gave, with constantly broadening sympathy, more and more of his time and effort to his college and to charitable and helpful undertakings, always increasing, never diminishing his activities within our organization and without. He was a stout and tender friend, a powerful ally, and he died at the height of his powers and his usefulness. This Board records its appreciation of his work and its sorrow at his death.

(Adopted by the Board of Directors, February 25, 1927)

C O P Y

New York, May 24, 1939

Mr Owen D Young
570 Lexington Avenue
New York

Sir:

First, 18 years having elapsed since you last saw me or heard of me, I beg to recall to you that from May 1910 to June 1921, I was in the employ of the General Electric Company as Secretary to Mr C A Coffin, and as such I was in a position to hear and see, and on occasion to be told by Mr Coffin himself in the leisurely privacy of his home, many things of a more or less confidential nature concerning men and events (Except between April 20, 1918 and April 1, 1919)

Well, towards the end of last January a copy of the January 7, 1939 issue of LIBERTY magazine happened to come to my attention, and the resounding and grandiloquent story about you therein I read not so much with amusement as with amazement that a man, pretending to be "honest as well as modest", could have approved of and consented to its publication. It abounds in exaggerations and perversions of the truth, and there is hardly a phrase or sentence, whether encomiastic, bombastic or felicitous, which cannot be construed to your embarrassment or discomfiture, if not dishonor and disgrace. Let me briefly touch upon a few:

1. There is the Stone & Webster incident. You licked Mr Coffin's lawyers? What were their names? It seems to me your version of this is about as true as that you called on Mr Coffin at his offices at 120 Broadway! Did you know or ever hear of Robert Mather? Of course you knew Guy E Tripp!

2. As to the strike in the Lynn works, that broke out in June, 1918 and my impression is that your part in its settlement is about as exaggerated as is the number of G E employees and stockholders, which at that time did not total more than 70,000 and 20,000 respectively. And did not a man by the name of W L Mackenzie King have some role in it?

3. As to your war services (or rather lack of any), what can be behind the euphemistic bombast that "it was unanimously decided that he (YOU) was the one man who should remain and run the business"? For, indeed, folk - if you apply a little "prolonged contemplation" and "self-analysis" to these names, they ought to remind you of such disservices as is suggested by the word SLACKER, which was then quite current.

4. Regarding the formation of the R C A, why crow about that, or arrogate to yourself whatever glory there was in it? I remember that Alexander and E F Edwards did some work about it, not to mention the fact that three or four weeks ago the obituary of Albert G Davis disclosed that he had an important part also. Furthermore, since some years later the

Department of Justice, despite your "persuasiveness", could see in it only an unlawful and monopolistic trust, do you care to accept the stigma of being classed with "corporation lawyers.... who are less lawyers than privileged conspirators against the public welfare", as one writer neatly puts it? Also you received a substantial block of shares of stock of R C A in 1922 or 1923. Was this bonus formally approved, as evidenced by a resolution in the minutes of a meeting of the directors?

MATTHEW

XXIII:

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(X)

Finally, as bearing on your honesty, there is the Dillon Read - Goodyear Tire - Seiberling deal in 1921, where coming and going you allowed the use of your name to "surround a spokesman with an aura of sanctity". Mr Coffin's hunch that there was something ulterior or sinister in Dillon's desire to have you become a director of Goodyear Tire proved all too true!

MATTHEW

XVIII:

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I hate to enter into any argument or cross swords with you, giant that you are and dwarf that I am alongside you, literally as well as figuratively speaking. It seems to me, however, that the 15,000,000 readers of LIBERTY should know something of the real truth, and the points I bring up herein, with some amplification and enlargement and with comment on other points (as for instance, "cultural wage") would constitute something of a "devastating reply" to the LIBERTY story.

Verily, all too often "truth is stranger than fiction", as the slogan of one of Macfadden's magazines has it. The truth as to you, Sir, it seems to me has thus far been crushed to earth. Shall it rise again - triumphant?

If you care to say anything by way of an answer, will you please do so promptly - say by May 31st?

Yours for truth.

(Signed) Stephen J. Smitney
221 West 69th Street
New York

And then there is poor old
Miss TARBELL! Has the leopardess
changed her spots and been metamorphosed
into a panegyrist?

(X) See HARPER's magazine for April 1939 - "The Priesthood of the Law".

TEXT OF LETTER

New York, June 27, 1939

Mr. Owen D. Young,
570 Lexington Ave.,
New York.

Sir:

Your letter of May 26th was duly received. It seems to be a reply according to Proverbs 15:1, or possibly in accordance with the last paragraph of page 94 of Tarbell's book on O. D. Y.? Well, dissimulation is something of an art which we have practiced with reference to each other since early 1917!!!

Sure enough, Miss Ida M. Tarbell, the leopardess who in her younger days used to eat "big" men alive, has changed her spots and been metamorphosed into a panegyrist!! While crusading against evil and hypocrisy had been her forte, she lately has seen nothing but sweetness and light, as evidenced by her book, "OWEN D. YOUNG-- A NEW KIND OF INDUSTRIAL LEADER", which I have now read with little amusement but exceeding amazement. What I wrote to you in my letter of May 24th regarding the LIBERTY article applies with equal force to Miss Tarbell's book; there is no need of retracting or moderating a single word thereof. (In fact, it would appear that much in the LIBERTY article is plagiarized from her book)

My "attitude toward facts" as therein presented is one of "suspecting them, challenging them". (Page 112) It would appear that somebody misrepresented the "facts" to her and exaggerated their significance as to you. Take the Stone & Webster - Dallas "confused situation" as per pages 97 and 98, my recollection of which is that it was a "tempest in a teapot". At any rate, you never reached "120 Broadway" -- you should recall why that was impossible. And for Miss Tarbell to quote Mr Coffin as saying to you that "we would like to have you come in as a Vice-President in charge of policy" is to imply that Mr Coffin and all the other officials and men who with him had grown up and built up the G E Co to its preeminent position had become senile and superannuated fogies and morons. It should be borne in mind that up to 1922 you were one of several Vice-Presidents and otherwise not even a DIRECTOR.

Again as to your war services, it seems to me somebody deliberately lied to Miss Tarbell in order to cover up the black spot on your escutcheon. She could not show that you had made any sacrifice or done anything involving inconvenience to your personal comfort or purse, so on page 121 she blurts out:

"Mr. Young sat on no committees; yet he touched many. He seems to have functioned as a general liaison officer between Company and various boards."

So on page 122 John W. Elwood comes to her aid. He was "sitting in the same office". Sitting is right!!! He was not shouldering a gun or wiping out the submarines (page 296). She should have been told how and why he was sitting in the same office!!!

June 27, 1939

It seems to me that by then Miss Tarbell was all but convinced-- all but! Else why in the next paragraph she had to say "There is no doubt he regretted" etc., or include the excerpt "Unfortunately (he wrote)" etc? And is not the first paragraph on page 124 something of a lie in view of the POLK incident (you should know what I mean by this) which occurred sometime between September and December 1917?

And what about ANSON W. BURCHARD? There is no mention of him anywhere in the book; is it possible that she never heard of him? Of course he was dead and buried, and a dead man tells no tales! But I remember he was down in Washington during the war-- and he was not down there merely to play jacks or African golf with, for instance, Gerard Swope! It is probable that he was the real "liaison officer between Company and various boards". Well, I can readily understand it all, for your abnormal vanity and "superiority complex" does not permit of the least bit of credit to any one else; which is doubtless why, in Miss Tarbell's references to the R C A there is likewise no mention whatsoever of names like Harbord, Hally and Sarnoff, who were the managing and operating heads, while you as Chairman represented the dominant stock interest.

I could go on raving, but what's the use? However, I feel strongly that the LIBERTY article and Miss Tarbell's book call for an answer publicly. Who but I can make a "devastating" one, as I said in my letter of May 24th? You have murdered truth; like Banquo's ghost, the truth will not down! (And is Miss Tarbell's role in this thing something like that of the witches in MACBETH?) What I have written to you and would say in any public reply might seem scurrilous and libelous, but it would be only truth as I know it. You, being a lawyer, perhaps can tell me if truth is ever slanderous or libelous.

Please give me a prompt answer if you care to. I want to have another look at Miss Tarbell's book at a public library, after which I will want to communicate with her and ask for the opportunity of seeing her about it. She might want to write something by way of a sequel or denouement. You might read the last three paragraphs on page 311 of it. Also see page 111 about "fidelity to ... decision". Will I have enough "courage to act" on my decision?

Yours for truth,

(Signed) Stephen J. Smitney

231 West 69th Street, New York

P.S.- The disclosure of the G E top salaries shows up the hypocrisy of your "CULTURAL WAGE" stuff.

Who, about 1920, suggested to Mr Coffin that he might like to have himself written up as an "inspiring story"? Being a truly "honest as well as modest" man, did he fall for the idea then or ever?

bbbb -- See SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, May 1939, page 288, on "Your Inferiority Complex"; also J P Morgan's remark about two reasons for doing a thing, page 289.

See HECAE'S
lines in "MACBETH"

C O P Y

New York, February 8, 1940

Frank L. Polk, Esq
Davis, Polk, Wardwell, Gardner & Reed
15 Broad St. New York

Dear Sir:

OWEN D. YOUNG

Just about a year ago today I sent you a letter, together with a copy of the January 7, 1939 issue of LIBERTY magazine containing the "inspiring story" of Owen D Young, who as you know was the Chairman of the General Electric Company, and I called your attention and commented on the following passage therein:

"So generally was this recognized by his associates that when the wartime government sent a call to the company for executives and experts, it was unanimously decided that he was the one man who should remain and run the business."

Now I will identify myself by telling you that from May 1910 to June 1921 (except between April 20, 1918 and April 1, 1919) I was in the employ of the General Electric Company as secretary to C A Coffin, then Chairman of the G E Co, and sometime in the fall of 1917 I thus became aware of the fact that you invited Owen D Young to join you in the State Department at Washington.

The real reason why Mr Young did not join you was not because he was needed at the G E Co, but because the salary of \$7,000 per year which you told him was all he could expect (your own salary being but \$9,000) would have meant financial ruin to him. He so wrote in a memo to Mr Coffin, which the latter showed to me. Why take a \$7,000 job when he was getting \$30,000 from the G E Co?

It was not the policy of C A Coffin or of the G E Co to hold back anybody from responding to the colors in any way; it would have been unpatriotic and against public policy. Mr Coffin once remarked to me or to some one in my presence that no man could be considered as indispensable to the G E Co, every man would be allowed to respond to the call of duty according to his conscience and sense of patriotism or according to the law. I myself responded to the army draft and so served 11 months-- much to Mr Coffin's inconvenience-- and my pay as a private was \$30.00 per month less deductions, as compared to \$250.00 per month from the G E Co.!!!

As Mr Young is quoted in the LIBERTY article, "a really big man is never a dodger". But Mr Young personally did everything possible to dodge service of any and every kind for the country during the war; he was a slacker if there ever was one, on the following four counts:

(1) He aided and abetted a young man by the name of Howard Fox, a German who was hardly anything more than an office boy with him, in trying to evade the military draft

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(2) He aided and abetted a young man by the name of John W. Elwood, a cousin, in evading, successfully, the military draft. He installed Elwood in his office, thus enabling him to claim exemption on the ground of being the support of somebody.

(3) He refused to take part in any voluntary campaigns during the war in behalf of the Red Cross, Liberty Loans, etc.

(4) He refused to join you in the State Dept. because of the small salary of \$7,000 which he would have received, as compared to the \$20,000 the G E Co was paying him.

You of course know of that one-time muckraker, Miss Ida M. Tarbell. It seems in 1932 she wrote a panegyric on Mr Young, a book entitled "OWEN D YOUNG: A New Type of Industrial Leader", but it took seven years for it to catch up with me and I read it for the first time only last June. The book is certainly the bunk; it is even worse than the LIBERTY article in its exaggerations and perversions of truth. However, in support of my charges (2) and (3) above, I refer you to page 123 of that book, where Miss Tarbell admits that John W. Elwood was "sitting in the same office"-- that is, with O D Young-- and then follow two paragraphs in which she and Mr Young himself admit that he took no part in any voluntary campaigns:

"There is no doubt that he regretted that he could take no part in any of the country's great volunteer campaigns.

" 'Unfortunately (he wrote to one who had urged him to speak in a drive) the executive ranks of General Electric are greatly depleted because several of our executives are giving practically their entire time to war activities. At the time their release was authorized by our executive committee for war work I assumed the burden of standing by and giving all of my time to the company. Under these circumstances it will be impossible for me to comply with your request. It is a matter of real regret to me personally that I cannot do so.' "

And then on page 124 the first paragraph reads:

"When in 1918 the limit of military service was raised to 45 years, he wanted to join the army in any capacity. But he could not be spared, his friends would not hear of it and he, himself, must have known how essential he had become in the immense undertaking the country had on hand."

As to the last paragraph, can you imagine Mr Young wanting "to join the army in any capacity", for \$20.00 per month and "perquisites" after having refused to join you in the State Department because \$7,000 per year was too small a salary?

Yes, Mr Polk, there is no end to the Machiavellian cunning, duplicity and hypocrisy of Owen D Young, involving "treasons, stratagems and spoils". My convictions regarding him were and are so strong and I was so aroused by the LIBERTY article and the TARBELL

2/8/40

book that I had the courage to write to him two letters as follows:

1. Letter dated May 24, 1939, about the LIBERTY article, in the 5th paragraph of which you will see that I actually apply the word "SLACKER" to him and mention your name.

2. Letter dated June 27, 1939, about the TARBELL book, and again in the first paragraph of the second page I mention your name-- the Polk incident.

Copies are enclosed herewith and they speak for themselves.

Now I have come to the point where I want to make some kind of reply, either publicly through some magazine, or privately among the directors of the G E Co and others of Mr Young's prominent friends, etc. For this reason I should like to see you and have the benefit of your counsel in the matter, particularly as your name would be brought into this thing.

The history of the years 1914-1918 is repeating itself. Who knows what deviltry Mr Young may be up to? He is still a director of the G E Co, and I believe he is chairman of the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of N Y. Should a man who was a slacker in 1917-1918 and a strong German sympathizer-- the LIBERTY article discloses that Mr Young is of German ancestry-- be allowed to continue in those offices, as well as others, at this time?

Will you see me?

Sincerely yours,
(Signed)

Stephen J Smitney
231 West 69th Street
New York City

P.S.-- To my letter to him of May 24, 1939, regarding the LIBERTY magazine article, Mr Young saw fit to make a proverbial "soft answer" reading as follows:

"New York, May 26, 1939

Dear Mr Smitney:

In reply to your letter of May 24, I need only say that I never saw or knew of the Liberty magazine article to which you refer until it was put upon my desk one day long after it was published.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Owen D Young "

JOEY

New York, February 21, 1940

Mr. John L. Lewis,
President, C I O.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir,

Some rise by sin,

What may man within him hide
Though angel on the outward side.
--- Measure for measure

Enclosed is a clipping from the New York WORLD-TELEGRAM of January 27th, headed "Lewis won't toudy to Roosevelt". In it is mentioned the name of Owen D Young, who up to January 1st had been Chairman of the General Electric Company, from which I assume that you consider Mr Young a friend of labor, etc.

I question that Mr Young is a true friend of labor. He is great in rendering lip service to causes and ideals, but mighty poor in performance. As an example, in the January 7, 1939 issue of LIBERTY magazine there was the "inspiring story" of O D Young in which the following passage occurs:

"He (Young) also saw, and was the first industrialist clearly to announce, that the workman was entitled not only to a living wage but a cultural wage. The problem of getting it and keeping it-- even in times of depression-- for the G E workman he has made his own particular job."

These are fine words from or about one who in that article is said to be "honest as well as modest" and "the economist with a heart"; but, unfortunately, they do not square with Mr Young's performance. This is disclosed on page 15 (copy enclosed) of the annual report of the G E Co for the year 1938, where under "Employees and Pay-rolls" it is shown that the rank and file of the G E Co employees in 1938 received average wages of \$1,694, compared with \$1,925 for 1937-- a reduction of \$239 or about 12.5%.

Yet O D Young himself in 1938 received \$245.447 from the G E Co as disclosed by income tax reports and otherwise, or \$10.447 more than he received in 1937!!! How his heart bled for the workman!!!

You see O D Young had solved the "problem of getting and keeping a cultural wage" for himself -- "even in times of depression". But he let the devil take care of the workman, particularly the 15,295 who lost their jobs during 1938.

Yours for truth,

Stephen J. Smithey
231 West 69th Street,
New York, N. Y.

1938 ANNUAL REPORT

George P. Gardner resigned as a Director on October 28, 1938, after more than forty-three years of service.

Charles E. Wilson, Executive Vice President, and Philip D. Reed, Assistant to the President, were elected Directors on March 25, 1938.

John P. Wilson was elected a Director on May 27, 1938.

G. Peabody Gardner, Jr. was elected a Director on October 28, 1938.

James A. Cranston, Commercial Vice President, retired as of June 1, 1938, after nearly forty-nine years of service.

Raymond M. Alvord, Manager of the Pacific District, John E. N. Hume, Manager of the Industrial Department, and Alexander S. Moody, Manager of the Northwestern District, were elected Commercial Vice Presidents on December 30, 1938.

EMPLOYEES AND PAYROLLS

General

The number of employees on the payroll of your Company, not including its affiliates, averaged 59,917 during 1938 compared with 75,212 during 1937, and total earnings of employees amounted to \$101,511,000, compared with \$145,358,000 for the previous year. Average annual earnings per employee amounted to \$1,694, compared with \$1,933 for 1937, the latter amount being the highest in the history of the Company. The decrease in earnings of employees resulted from reductions in all salaries over \$2,000 per annum, shorter working schedules, and the spreading of work, in order to provide as many jobs as possible and, at the same time, to reduce expenses along with the decrease in volume of business.

Your Company has continued its policy of paying wage rates equal to, or higher than, rates paid in community industries for comparable work requiring equal skill and efficiency, and insures the continuance of this policy by constantly studying community rates of wages.

lost their jobs

75,212
59,917
15,295

yet
O.D. Young
in 1938
received
\$245,447
or
\$10,447
MORE
than in
1937!

*1933
1614
#239
12 3/4%
reduction
in salaries & wages

C O P Y

New York, July 4, 1940

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Washington, D C

My dear Mr President:

OWEN D YOUNG

First, let me say that in the records of Uncle Sam I am a veteran of the world war of 1917-1918. Also, from 1912 to June 1921, as secretary to C A Coffin, then Chairman of the General Electric Company, I came in contact with OWEN D YOUNG and thus happen to know a few things concerning the latter man, including the so-called low-down and the recendite about Mr Young and events touching him.

Within the past ten days or so I read where you had Mr Young at luncheon and had "prevailed on him to enter the National Defense setup"; while back about April 8th Mr Young accepted your "invitation to head a committee to ... study nation's transportation problem".

Also, on July 2nd I read where "Phillip Young, 31-year old son of Owen D Young, was appointed to (your) committee to coordinate foreign and domestic war material purchases".

All that indicates that you, Sir, in common with the country, believe OWEN D YOUNG to be an impeccable character of sweetness and light, the paragon of private and civic virtue and righteousness that he has been cracked up to be in the public prints, such as LIBERTY magazine of January 7, 1939, the FORTUNE magazine of January 1940 and January-March 1931, and the book by Miss Ida M Tarbell entitled "Owen D Young - A New Type of Industrial Leader" (1932)

The writer, on the contrary, knows Owen D Young as a perverter of truth, if not the biggest liar since Ananias; a blustering braggart, egotist and self-exalter; nepotist, looter and spoilsman; a war SLACKER or "Fifth Column" man for Kaiser Wilhelm during the war years 1917-1918, and otherwise there is no end to his Machiavellian hypocrisy, cunning, duplicity and impositions on the public trust, involving "treasons, stratagems and spoils".

In support and substantiation of my charges, I can do no better than enclose the following:

1. LIBERTY magazine article of Jan 7, 1939
2. Copy of my letter dated May 24, 1939, to Owen D Young taking him to task for that article
3. Copy of my letter dated Feb 8, 1940 to Frank L Polk (whom you doubtless know well as having been one time acting Secretary of State, etc in President Wilson's administration) regarding the "treasons" of O D Young

Hon Franklin D Roosevelt #2

7-4-1940

4. Copy of my letter of Feb 21, 1940 to John L Lewis
(O I O) commenting on the "cultural wage" passage
in the LIBERTY magazine article

5. Copy of my letter dated April 22, 1940. to Owen D Young
in which I stated I wanted to and would write to you

Also, as a stockholder in the General Electric Company, I have written to P D Reed and C E Wilson, now, respectively, Chairman and President of G E Co; to Gerard Swope and several other directors of the G E Co, asking them for an opportunity to appear before the full board of directors and tell the whole sordid story about Mr Young

You will thus see that I have had the courage of my convictions in thus daring to attack Mr Young's honesty, modesty, patriotism, etc. He himself knows about it, as indicated by the enclosures; but, the printed record being what it is and giving strong substantiation to everything I charge against him, he has been taking it all lying down, not ~~wary~~ caring or daring to say or do anything to refute and confute me, or to gag me otherwise.

Accordingly, I respectfully submit that you should have nothing whatsoever to do with Owen D Young, and that he and his son should have nothing to do and no contact whatsoever with any governmental activity, patriotic or otherwise

Owen D Young in the war years 1917-1918 had an opportunity to serve the country when Mr Frank L Polk invited him to join him in the State Department in Washington, but he snuffed it and instead chose to serve himself and MAMMON and to be a SLACKER-- or something of a "fifth column" man for Kaiser Wilhelm, to use present-day phraseology-- as pointed out in the Feb 8 1940 letter to F L Polk (enclosure #3)

Ever since, to cover up this and other black spots on his escutcheon, O D Young has resorted to all sorts of arrogations, bombasts, euphemisms, evasions, hypocrisies, omissions and perversions of truth, deeming it safe to do so because, up to May 24, 1939, he had thought nobody among the living knew of his rascalities, or would dare to expose them and him to the light of day

Knowing as I do that you do not condone iniquity and hypocrisy in any man, particularly one in so-called anointed leadership who has caught the public fancy and favor, but believe with me that he should be exposed, "high though his titles, proud his name", I expect you to act accordingly.

With great respect, I am, Sir,

Yours for truth (Ephesians 6:12-14)

(Signed) S J S

Stephen J Smitney
231 West 69th Street
New York, N Y