

January 15, 1932

Hon. Thomas Watt Gregory
1102-02 Union National Bank Bldg.
Houston, Texas

My dear Mr. Gregory:

I hope you will pardon my coming directly to you for information without other introduction than an explanation of why I am troubling you. I am engaged in a biographical study of Owen D. Young - hoping to get out of it a not too long book. I want for this an appraisal of his contribution to the Second Industrial Conference of President Wilson - a body of which I believe you were a member. Is it asking too much, dear Mr. Gregory, to ask you to set down for me your recollections of his work in that body?

I was myself a member of the public group of the First Industrial Conference. I had never conceived until then how little of the spirit of co-operation and good will could exist in a body of that nature.

How utterly obstinate and militant the groups could be.

The fact that the Second Industrial Conference did succeed in agreeing on a plan for settling industrial disputes gave me a high regard for its members but I realized that there must have been a leadership there very different from any that came to the top in the first body. From talking with other members of the group I have come to the conclusion that if Mr. Young could not be called that leader he at least did a great deal to adjust conflicting opinions. Am I right in this in your judgment? I shall be grateful for anything that you may be good enough to tell me and of course while I should prefer to quote you I shall not do so without your consent.

May I ask, too, if you ever came in contact with Mr. Young in the years from 1900 on when he was re-organizing street railways in Galveston, Houston, Dallas, for Stone & Webster? I have examined with some care his work as a representative of that firm and have carried away the notion that he was something more than a client-lawyer, that he did consider the public's interests.

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Trusting that I am not imposing on your time and goodwill, believe me

Very sincerely yours