

September 27, 1933

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 <sup>MR</sup> into his  
fortunes. Who could have believed when my sketch was  
published in June of '32 that he would have practically  
no opportunity to contribute <sup>of</sup> 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 <sup>first</sup> 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 <sup>fall</sup> ~~haul~~  
of responsibility. True certain things have happened between  
June '32 and March '33 that would make a President perhaps  
hesitate. <sup>But</sup> I can't help feeling that a man who <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ better  
able to weigh, perhaps less jealous where a rival was con-  
cerned, 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  
<sup>an</sup> ~~a~~ incredible <sup>slut</sup> ~~slut~~ <sup>slut</sup> 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 U.E. to the utilities that Insulin had so played with could certainly understand how a request for a loan could hardly have been refused.

A few months later when the President's right hand man, Howe, was caught engineering/<sup>a</sup>contract to a friend and Roosevelt, himself, had ~~consented~~ to 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 ~~valiant~~ <sup>silent</sup> opponent of the privileged list, and I dislike Young's name on Insulin's privileged list, much more than I did his ~~end~~ <sup>line</sup> spending the money. There seems to me to be <sup>line</sup> 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, <sup>sensitive</sup> ~~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 ~~where~~ 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 view, 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, <sup>at</sup> am not at all sure <sup>but</sup> 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~~ who was trying to fight back the avalanche which he says ~~had~~ engulfed him <sup>(H.)</sup>

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 ~~that~~ 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 <sup>who</sup> 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 ~~are~~ probably should in the interest of healthy industrial life be cut out, done away with, racketeers and chisellers.

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 should 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 - ~~xxx~~ the huge profits are by codes made impossible. That takes one of the great causes of discontent from labor; these profits are going into the higher labor rates. <sup>He feels that</sup> /invasions on either side should be dealt with similarly. Does not like the word boycott. He says he thinks he <sup>will</sup> see the President's <sup>while he's at Hyde Park</sup> 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 <sup>a big issue</sup> ~~if you asked for an issue.~~ <sup>and</sup> As fast as one <sup>war</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>clearly</sup> ~~could~~ <sup>those should be demanded</sup> ~~another~~

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. <sup>90</sup> ~~50~~ 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 *dihuni* 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 *must* to go back to pioneering, begin over again. As I see the world the hard thing *where* it is youth that is going to suffer most. The older people can setback, go without. *Five* 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. *that*

"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 <sup>is called</sup> calls him by his first name, "Will", David - ~~who is~~ Sarnoff, I take it. <sup>Robert</sup> *Herbert* 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 annews 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.