

Young - Case interview December 10th at G.E. New York

Talked with Case. Has been at V.H. back up to the birthplace and from the house went to the top of the hill. Saw I take it the paths which G.D.Y. followed. Tells Y. on his return that he had been there. Finds him pleased. "It is a nice little place, isn't it?" O.D.Y. said. "I lived there the only child with my father, mother and the hired man and we worked from daylight to darkness. From the house you couldn't see where anybody lived you couldn't see the road and I used to run away sometimes in the afternoon and go up there to the top of the hill and look over to the roof of ^{Tillyon} Tetlow's house. I could see the road from there and I longed to see a wagon go by, to see something in movement. It was that lonainess as a boy that made me so eager when I ^{first} realized what the radio would mean - how it would open the world to people in V.H."

Case said he was much pleased when he told him how the children hung on ~~him~~ at the schoolhouse after hours, unwilling to go home, they were so interested.

We talk of the speech at the Lotos Club on December 3rd. Says that Young did not intend to write it but he became a little uneasy for fear of mis-quotation and so worked out the copy that I have. Says that he, Case, submitted it to Crocker who was disturbed by his plea that America should be generous in the matter of her debts, said that would bring criticism. "But," said Young, "that is what I think and that is what I want to say in this talk." "It is, of course, the only important thing that he did say.

He did not think it much as a speech so he told Case.

And of course ~~this kind of~~ ^{part from the point -} it was not much.

Coming down from Albany where they had gone the next day, Case showed him certain editorials, some very good and he said, "Sometimes I think the more inane a speech the better the editorial."

In introducing him Dr. Butler called him an example of what is highest and best in American life. He also said, and I must get the exact -

"Our guest of honor is a public servant, although he holds no office. Whether the public servant receives office or not is accidental, and if this public servant by accident does assume office, as likely as not it is apt to reduce a great deal of the public servant's public service."

When Butler said as likely as not public office would reduce his contribution to public service, Young threw back his head and laughed heartily.

There is no question but what he is considering that point himself. It is practically what he said to me in the talks which led to my present undertaking.

Interesting discussion possible here. Whether or no a man's real contribution, ~~not a~~ ^{service} contribution is not reduced by political office - possibility of ~~it~~ ^{service} is reduced. The point is, that ⁱⁿ remaining a private citizen doing a private job, but having uppermost in your mind public service, as I believe Y. has, you can do a more genuine piece of work although it will not show and you will not receive ^{the} popular recognition. Possibly this is true.

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We are too apt to value a man's service by the wealth he accumulates or by the offices that he holds and both are doubtful recognitions - rather doubtful measuring sticks.

It is to be noted that Young's point of dealing generously brought a ^{reply} ~~chart~~ the next day from Hoover, when he said, "That the Government had no idea of reducing the foreign debt," That is the G.E. office - Case - seems to think that it was a retort - this of course may be wrong. What Young does think, however, and as I understood, said to Case, if not ~~elsewhere~~ in public: "If this settlement is thrown back it is going to hold up Europe for ten years and us with it for no German Government would dare ~~fine~~ ^{sign} a second plan." This we should ^{be} go into more carefully.