Last December the Lotus Club of New York City gave a dinner in honor of Owen D. Young, who had just returned from a long meeting with the Reparations Board. He was introduced by Nicholas Murray Butler, who made an interesting reference to the campaign to make Mr. Young President of the United States, which has been going on steadily and affectively for some three or four years.

"Our guest of honor," said Dr. Butler, "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 like as not it is apt to reduce a great deal of the public service."

To this remark, Mr. Young is reported to have thrown back his head and laughed heartily and appreciatively.

Those who know him best know that it is his view of the Presidency. Long ago when there was an agitation to make him Governor of the State of New York he said with emphasis, "To administer public affairs effectively requires political knowledge and political experience. I have neither. I have never undertaken a job to which my experience did not in some degree qualify me and I hope I never may."

That was four years ago and since that time Mr. Young

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has acquired by force a great deal of political knowledge from political experience. His decided reasons for not considering the Governorship then, in 1926, does not apply with the same force now in this matter of the Presidency. Another reason does however apply and with greater force than ever, that is, Mr. Young's convictions that in his present position as the arbiter of the policies of a great industry, not only national but inter-national, in its contacts, its obligations bringing as that position has to him the opportunity to act as his country's representative in inter-national affairs of the most delicate, intricate and pressing importance. He has developed a kind of leadership, tremendously needed in the country and never quite recognized or understood by the country. It is in my understanding his belief that in his present position he can be of more real service to the public than he could as President of the United States.

What can he do? He is slowly demonstrating to the skeptical population of this country that something more than voting men into positions of power - something more than political leaderships and the passing of laws - is necessary for a stabile country. He is demonstrating that leadership which will consider both the right of industrial undertaking and the relationship of that valiant undertaking to the public is a possible as well as an essential thing. That any leadership that attempts to dis-associate as politics

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so often do, private and public affairs, is bound to work for disorder and injustice. Somehow there must be an understanding development between all the functions of American life. American life is not divided into separate compartments. Every part is related to every other part, he says like the great industrial enterprise in which a primary vision of accomplishment possible is worked out through related departments of efforts, each necessary to the other.

We have tried too much to live in separated quarters, actions to carry on politics without full conception of their relation to our financial, industrial, commercial life. It is the understanding of concepts, political and social, the understanding of qualities, scientific and practical - the adjustment of these things that is our tremendous need.

Mr. Young comes in as a leader who attempts to recognize and understand all of the factors in an undertaking. Besides the great enterprise of which he is the pilot there is no man whose meaning is not clear to him, whose functions are not clear, whose right and interest is not concerned. When it comes to public life he takes the same attitude. Politics, industrial protection, agriculture, finance, education, are functions of society and unless they are understood, under the leadership of each there is a intelligent recognition of the position and relation of all of the others, and there is a spirit of adjustment, accommodation, a recognition that unless all of these functions are freely and

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fully discharged, the whole body suffers. Its well-being and its advancement are in proportion to the healthy co-operation of all the functions. Now to bring about this understanding, adjustment and co-operation we need in this country a leadership of a different kind from what we have developed. Mr. Young has the qualities, strong qualities as a negotiator, extraordinary sense of the other man and his rights. It looks as if he might be the great adjuster of the warring functions of American society, as he so often has been of the warring functions in the great industry where he is, what may be called the political industrial leader.

Think certain questions might be put to him. Do you feel in regard to the Presidency as you did four years ago in regard to the Governorship of New York - that it is a job for which you have not sufficient experience? Is it not true that the experience of the last four years has given you an insight into politics?

Is there no possibility of adjustment of politics and economics? Must there not be such an adjustment if the country is to go ahead towards real stability? Must not the mass, the mob if you want to so call it, have political leadership? Might not this mass be made to understand, as we have never done yet, the real meaning of economics - its relation. That it is not a thing which can be mastered by political science. But you can't make an economic unit by law - laws may be of stabile have a relation but they do not do it. There must be practical enterprises controlled by economic laws and that these economic laws

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are more fundamental than any political laws that we have sofar devised, excepting the fundamental laws of all economic enterprises must be for the good of the man in the long run.

Are not economic laws in the nature of things - are ~~political~~ them equally eternal laws underlying politics?

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