Dear Mr. Byoir:

There are a great many reasons why I should like to be with you tonight at the dinner of the Society of Arts and Sciences. First among them is that I would like to share in the tribute that will be paid to my old friend, Owen D. Young.

I know that in the more than sixty years of its existence the Society has bestowed its medal upon many whose names stand at the top of American achievement in the fields in which they serve. The Society has no more illustrious name in terms of national and international service than Owen D. Young.

Another reason that I miss being there tonight is because of my special interest in the fields of activity in which this year's award has been made. In the building of international good will Mr. Young has made a magnificent contribution, and he reflected great credit on American business and American business men. Wholly without regard to his personal interest he undertook a negotiation unequalled perhaps in our times in all that it required of practical experience, vision, tact and infinite patience. He achieved a great success not only in the task itself but in leaving with all who had a part in it a greater admiration for us and for our people.

The Society also honors Mr. Young for his services in securing a greater measure of cooperation between business and government. Mr. Young's effort has been characterized by calm analysis, impartiality and an open mind. He has set a great example. He has not hoarded his effectiveness as an individual but has made it available to the nation as a whole.

I feel, as must every American citizen, that the standard of public service has been significantly raised by Mr. Young's example. Voluntary service by leaders of American industry is the key to the successful cooperation of statesmanship and business. Unselfishly contributed, it can help to provide solutions to problems that are increasingly difficult and complex.

I suppose that all scientific progress is, in the long run, beneficial, yet the very speed and efficiency of scientific progress in industry has created present evils, chief among which is that of unemployment. So tremendous and necessarily painful are the required readjustments that the intervention of government in the search for a solution creates irritation among business men who regard this as peculiarly their exclusive province.
But there are those who realize that our whole economic structure must in the last analysis rest upon a human foundation. The worker must have assured work in order that his family may have all those things that we want every American family to have. In fairness, I do not hesitate to say that no nation has excelled us in the concern of its real business leaders as to all of those things that make for the happiness of the workers. Yet economic conditions often make it increasingly difficult for individual business men to do all that he would do if he could. When Government has tried to help we have often found misunderstanding and difficulties that seemed for the moment insurmountable. Cooperation will decrease the strength of controversy and contribute greatly to the well-being of all.

Mr. Young has set an example. I hope others will similarly great parts in the realization that our industrial leaders may also lead in the work for the social health of our country.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Carl Byoir,
President, Society of Arts and Sciences,
Waldorf-Astoria Hotel,
New York City