

May 9, 1951

Mr. James W. Young
The Ford Foundation
575 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N.Y.

Dear Jim:

Will you please send me your schedule and itinerary for the last half of May and the first three weeks of June. I would like to plan an all-day meeting with you in New York, Pasadena or San Francisco on a date which suits your convenience.

A number of subjects need to be discussed. These include:

1. Specific projects which I do not want to evaluate finally without the benefit of your advice and guidance.
2. Areas of interest which are common to two or more authorized or contemplated projects and programs.
3. The need for a conference on the field of communications and the formulation of a plan for staff consideration.
4. Evaluation studies to assure that our project authorizations are sound and to assess the pay-off of our investments in projects (e.g., exchange of persons projects, television programs, etc.).

Obviously, this is not an exclusive list of subjects for discussion and I will try to prepare a more complete agenda in advance of our meeting.

I am writing Clarence and Scotty a similar letter. I know from our earlier discussions that you agree that the time has arrived for the four of us to consider the formulation of some plan which will produce coordination, eliminate a duplication of effort, and point up activities for preferred consideration. I think the most efficient way for us to proceed is to have a preliminary conference and working session to develop a plan for presentation to Paul and the rest of the staff.

Mr. James W. Young

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Margus and Speier will be in San Francisco on May 22, 23 and 24. If you are in the West we would be most happy to have you join us for the day of the 23rd. I am also inviting Clarence and Scotty.

Speaking of communications, I am glad you understand the performance of a country telephone line. I could decipher about one word in four when we talked the other day and was happy to discover that whatever you wanted to discuss could be deferred until Monday.

I want to add that I have just read again and at leisure the paper you presented to the trustees. I am more impressed than ever with the quality of thought which it represents, the realism of your approach, and the potentialities which it promises but doesn't guarantee. It sets a standard for all of us, and I must confess we are falling short of it.

Most sincerely,

Rowan Gaither

cc: J. M. McDaniel, Jr.
W. Scott Fletcher
Clarence Faust