

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

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EVERETT SANDERS

VICE CHAIRMEN:

RALPH E. WILLIAMS
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MRS. ELLIS A. YOST

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MEMBER FOR NEW YORK

SECRETARY:

GEORGE DEB. KEIM

TREASURER:

J. R. NUTT

GENERAL COUNSEL:

JAMES FRANCIS BURKE

January 18, 1933

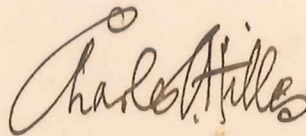
120 WILLIAM ST.
NEW YORK CITY

Robert H. Todd, Esq.,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Dear Mr. Todd:

I have your letter of the ninth. I would believe any statement by Charles F. Brooker if he was a witness to an occurrence. I doubt our ability to get Mr. Ward to comment. I shall try.

Sincerely yours,



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January 24, 1933

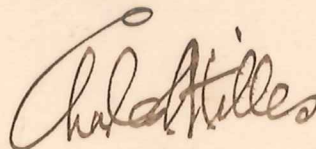
Mr. Roberto H. Todd,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Dear Mr. Todd:

Referring further to your letter of the ninth, I am sending back the story without any confirmation from Mr. Ward. However, I have talked with President Nicholas Murray Butler in regard to it, and he says that he heard the substance of the same story substantially as you have related it, except that his informant told him at the time that when Mr. Frank Munsey called upon Mr. Roosevelt he was accompanied by Mr. George W. Perkins. As Colonel Roosevelt, Mr. Munsey and Mr. Perkins have all gone to the great beyond, there is no one to confirm the story except Mr. Ward, and I am not in position to submit the matter to him.

With very best wishes, believe me,

Sincerely yours,



San Juan, Puerto Rico,
June 1925.

In the year 1923, Mr. Charles F. Brooker, of Connecticut, came to Puerto Rico, to spend the winter, as he had been doing for several years. I had known Mr. Brooker since 1904 when I went on the Republican National Committee, representing Puerto Rico. He was already on the Committee representing his State and was also a member of the Executive Committee.

In January 1924, Mr. Henry P. Coats, Attorney General of Puerto Rico, gave a dinner in honor of Mr. Brooker, and I was privileged to be present. After dinner we were invited to join Mr. and Mrs. Coats on the roof of their home, and while smoking and reminiscing, the conversation lead us to the political campaign of 1912, when, thru the splitting of the Party by Roosevelt's action in forming the Progressive Party and becoming a third party candidate to the Presidency, Wilson was an easy winner in the election of 1912.

Those who were on the Republican National Committee will remember that the majority of that powerful body was from the start in favor of the renomination of President Taft, not as a hostile spirit against Roosevelt or any other candidate, but simply as a matter of justice, following the well established custom of favoring the reelection of a President who had made a good administration. And Taft had made a good President.

When Roosevelt arrived in Chicago, the National Committee had been in session for several days listening to and deciding the several contests and, as it seemed, Roosevelt did not like the decisions of the Committee, which tended, he claimed, to favor the Taft side. He, therefore, gave out one of his well known broadsides in which he called the Committee "a bunch of thieves."

Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt stopped at the Blackstone Hotel, where Mr. Ward was also stopping. Everyone on the Committee knew that the Hon. William L. Ward, National Committeeman from the State of New York since 1904, was Roosevelt's spokesman on the Committee.

Here is where Mr. Brooker's story commenced. He told us that he got it direct from Ward.

The Convention opened at noon, Tuesday 18, and early Thursday morning, while Ward was shaving, he got a telephone message from Roosevelt asking him to come to his apartment and have breakfast with him and Mrs. Roosevelt, as he wanted to have a talk with him. When Ward arrived at Roosevelt's apartment, he accompanied both Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt to their private dining room and had breakfast, and was told that the night before Roosevelt had gone over the political situation with Mrs. Roosevelt, and after mature consideration, they had arrived at the conclusion that he would give up the uphill fight for the nomination and wanted Ward to be his spokesman before the Convention that very day, as soon as the meeting opened at noon, stating to the Convention that he spoke in Roosevelt's name. He also told Ward that he and Mrs. Roosevelt were

leaving town on an early train. When Ward tried to talk Roosevelt out of this decision, he found it was useless, as Roosevelt said he had given the matter due weight and he honestly believed to have arrived at the best solution for both the Party and himself.

Altho reluctantly, Ward was ready to comply with Roosevelt's request, when a newcomer entered the room in the person of Frank Munsey. Mr. Roosevelt explained to Munsey the situation and the latter was so enraged that he showed his displeasure by pacing the floor saying that it was too late to do what he called a trick to R's friends who had stood by him and were willing to make a fight after the Convention was over. When Roosevelt answered that he could not go any further after being defeated in the nomination, as he was a poor man and did not have the necessary funds to make a fight and run as an independent candidate, Munsey rose to the situation by stating that if the matter was reduced to one of dollars and cents, ~~that~~ he, Munsey, had enough money to defray all the expenses of the campaign. This, of course, put a stop to the negotiations entrusted to Ward.

The rest is ancient history.

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The rest is ancient history.

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San Juan, Puerto Rico,
October 1925.

In the Winter of 1923 Mr. Charles F. Brooker, of Connecticut, came to Puerto Rico, fleeing from the cold weather north, as he had been doing for many Winters. I had known Mr. Brooker since 1904 when I went on the National Committee representing Puerto Rico. He was already on the Committee representing Connecticut and was a member also of the Executive Committee.

In January 1924 Mr. Coats, Attorney General of Puerto Rico, gave a dinner in honor of Mr. Brooker and I was privileged to be present. After dinner we accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Coats on the roof of their home and while smoking and reminiscing, the conversation led us to the campaign of 1912, when, thru the splitting of the Party by Roosevelt's action in forming the Progressive Party and becoming a third party candidate to the Presidency which, naturally, gave Wilson a majority in the election.

Those who were on the National Committee will remember that the majority of that powerful body was from the start in favor of the renomination of President Taft, not as a hostile spirit against Roosevelt or any other candidate, but following the well established custom of favoring the ^εrelection of a President who had made a good administration.

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Altho reluctantly, Ward was ready to comply with Roosevelt's request, when a newcomer entered the room in the person of Frank Munsey who, as soon as he was explained the situation, was enraged and showed his displeasure by pacing the floor saying that it was too late to do what he called a trick to Roosevelt's friends, who had stood by him. When Roosevelt answered that he could not go any further after being defeated in the nomination as he was a poor man and did not have the necessary funds to run an independent campaign, Munsey rose to the situation by saying that if it was a matter of dollars

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The writer have not been able to verify this story which seems very important from a historical standpoint. There are only two persons alive who could verify the story, as they were witnesses to the conversation: Mrs. Roosevelt and Mr. Ward.