

San Juan, P.R.,

March 10, 1909.

Hon. Frank H. Hitchcock.

Chairman, Rep. Nat. Committee.

Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Hitchcock:

On account of the death of the Chief Justice of our Supreme Court, which position is a Presidential appointment, the Chairman of our Territorial Committee is writing the President direct recommending the names of Messrs. Emilio del Toro, Francisco Parra and José Tous Soto, and I have been instructed to request you to use your good offices near the President in behalf of our party.

The names which we present for consideration are of lawyers of good standing, both in the profession and in the community. The last two are in private practice, Mr. Soto having been a Judge and Mr. Parra a Prosecuting attorney, and both leaving the service on their own free will to go into private practice.

My personal choice is Mr. Toro. He is at present the Judge of the District Court of San Juan, and has been in the service as a Judge and as Prosecuting attorney for over eleven years, standing very high in the esteem of the Bench and the Bar. He is conservative and at the same time a progressive Judge, in so far as having an open and ready mind for the assimilation of American ideas. He is a staunch American and an admirer of our institutions.

Mr. James S. Harlan, one of the members of the Interstate Commerce Commission, knows him well, as he learned to love and admire him when he was the Attorney General down here some years ago, and I understand that he will recommend him for this appointment.

The Republicans think that we are entitled to recognition at this time in this vacancy, because there is no Republican on the Supreme Bench. We don't mean that we want to have a Republican as such in that Court where politicians should not enter, but it is a recognized fact that the three Porto Rican members of the Supreme Court

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happened to belong to the opposite party. The Supreme Court was appointed during the military government and President McKinley just confirmed them in their places when Civil Government was established, and they were good appointments which were liked by everyone, as the Justices had made a reputation for themselves as regards their honesty, integrity and learning. But the fact remained that none of them hailed from the Republican party.

For these reasons, I would request you to say a good word in behalf of our candidates, assuring you that if any of them are selected, the best interest of the Island and the country will be served.

Sincerely yours,