

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
FOR THE FIRST DISTRICT
No. 120 BROADWAY
NEW YORK CITY

OFFICE OF
WILLIAM HAYWARD
COMMISSIONER

April 27, 1917.

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

Dear Mr. Todd,

You will doubtless remember me as the Secretary of the Republican National Committee during the time you were our valued member from Porto Rico. Since that time and since my residence in New York, I have organized a negro regiment of Infantry, known as the 15th New York and which has been accepted by the War Department as Federal Militia. As part of our problem, we are trying to organize and raise the best band possible. All the enlisted men of the regiment are colored men and some of the officers.

The bearer of this letter is Lieutenant James Reese Europe who in civil life is a musician, composer and conductor of high reputation and very great ability and musical education. While he is one of the commissioned officers of the regiment he has undertaken the recruiting and training of the band. One of the difficulties he has encountered has been to secure negroes who could play wood wind instruments, such as a clarinet and we learned that there are a great number of musicians playing these kinds of instruments in Porto Rico. It is for this purpose that he is visiting Porto Rico. He will probably want to bring back ten or twelve such instrumentalists.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Lieutenant Moreno of the Porto Rican Regiment who has kindly offered to help us in any way possible and Lieutenant Europe is taking a letter from me to Colonel Burnham of the Porto Rican Regiment. Lieutenant Moreno thought that the band leader of your Municipal Band might be of very great service to us in this connection and it is for the purpose of having you request him to help Lieutenant Europe as well as having you assist him in any way possible that I am writing this letter. It is a matter very near and dear to my heart to have the project a great success and anything you can do for Lieutenant Europe will be as much appreciated as if done for me.

Our mutual friend Victor Rosewater of Omaha was in the office a day or so ago while this matter was under discussion and asked if I wrote you that I give you his cordial regards to go along with my own.

Yours very truly,



May 9, 1917.

Hon. William Hayward,
Public Service Commissioner,
No. 120 Broadway,
NEW YORK CITY.

My dear Mr. Hayward:-

I am just in receipt of your letter of April 27th. regarding Lieutenant Europe's mission to Porto Rico.

It happened that I was on the dock to meet a friend who came on the same boat with Lieutenant Europe and Lieutenant Moreno, and the latter told me of his meeting you and the mission of Lieu. Europe. I immediately offered Mr. Europe all the assistances I could give him and I put him in touch with the leader of the Municipal Band and also gave him a letter to whom it may concern and which, I understand, he used in his trip to the different parts of the island.

My understanding is that a few days after, Mr. Europe was able to take to New York 12 or 15 musicians, some of them belonging to our Band.

It is with a good deal of pleasure that I always receive pleasant news from my old friends on the National Committee and as I keep in touch with as many as I can, I follow them in their successes in life.

Thanks for remembering me and if in any other matter I can be of service to you in this little country of a million and a quarter fellow citizens, just command.

I saw Victor Rosewater last year while I was in Washington.

With best regards, I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

MAYOR OF SAN JUAN.

HEADQUARTERS
15TH REGIMENT N. Y. INFANTRY, N. G.

STATE CAMP---PEEKSKILL, N. Y.

May 18, 1917

Hon. R. H. Todd,
M a y o r,
San Juan, P. R.



My dear Mr. Todd:

I am in receipt of your letter of May 9th. Mr. Europe had already told me how helpful you were to him in getting the musicians we wanted. This we all appreciate very much and hope to be able to reciprocate some day. Our band is coming along fine, and we expect to have the best band in the world very soon.

Very truly yours,

Wm. Hayward
Colonel.