

July 12, 1922.

Honorable Horace M. Towner,  
Chairman, Committee on Insular Affairs,  
House Office Building,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

My dear Judge:-

There is very little that I can write you  
about.

The cases before the Supreme Court are still  
undecided, but I was told yesterday that perhaps this same  
week or the beginning of the next week they will be disposed  
of, inasmuch as the Court goes into vacations on the first  
days of next August.

George Mc Clure, the Governor's head of the  
Secret Service is in trouble. He is in the habit of putting  
people whom he takes to Police Headquarters for investigation  
thru the third degree and it has been predicted for some time  
that some day he would find himself in trouble. In the first  
place, these investigations at Police Headquarters are not  
authorized by law and in the second place, our people would  
not stand any such practice as the third degree.

It seems that Mc Clure has to investigate a  
matter pertaining to the stealing of a little boy from New  
Jersey by some gypsies and he went to the town of Aguadilla,  
a Republican stronghold, and took a boy under 16 years of age  
to the Police headquarters and in the course of his investigation,  
he slapped the boy and hit him with his whip. It seems that  
the boy showed some fight, and it is claimed by Mc Clure that  
the boy pulled a gun on him, and then he bit him some more.  
The boy made a complaint immediately and was examined by four  
Doctors of the community who certified that his body presented  
evidence of being ill-treated, and the whole community got in  
up roar against Mc Clure, as the boy is very well liked by every-  
one. The Grand Jur of the District of Aguadilla, that was in  
session, took the matter up for investigation and have brought

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a true bill against Mc Clure and the temper of the whole community in the district is such, that I will not be surprised if at the trial of the case Mc Clure should be convicted and the District Judge, being a rabid Independ-  
dentista, he will give Mc Clure the limit. I understand that the Governor has suspended Mc Clure pending the investigation of this matter.

In the "Imparcial", a daily newspaper written by Spaniards, leaning towards the Unionists, publishes the news yesterday coming from Mr. Travieso, saying that he has twice seen the President and the last conference was of more than one hour; that Judge Towner is coming to Porto Rico as Governor accompanied by another gentleman who would be the new Attorney General and that the latter after a stay of six months will become the new Governor, because Mr. Towner will be transferred as Governor of the Philippines. It is claimed that all these will happen during the month of August or September. This is the gist of the information published by the said paper, although it contains other subjects in which I don't believe you are interested.

It is surprising to one well aware of the situation, to listen to Governor Rely's talk and assurances of the President's backing. He told me yesterday that not only by direct communication but by other sources, he had the assurance that the President would sustain him and he gives the impression that he really believes that if the cases in the supreme Court are decided in his favor, that he will not only stay here until 1924, but if Harding is reelected, he may get another term.

Now, I really believe that the cases in the Supreme Court will be decided against the Attorney General and you know yourself what this will mean for Rely. But he believes that if the cases should be decided against Mestre, then the President would not hesitate in asking for Mestre's resignation and he told me so yesterday.

I understand that Mr. Barcelo is leaving this afternoon for the States, ostensibly to visit his sick son in Saranac Lake, but with the intention of going to Washington to see what is to be done with the Governor. A friend of mine who can get the inside news among the Unionists, told me that in submitting his expense account, Cordova Davila showed an item of expense

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of \$2000.00 given to both Senator King and Congressman Humprey. The document did not said in what capacity the money was given, and knowing the personal high standing and reputation of both Senator King and Congressman Humprey, I have denied that this was a personal contribution and that if the money was given at all, it might have been in the way of a political contribution to the Democratic campaign. Of course, I cannot vouch for the certainty of this or any part of it, but it is well to keep you posted of everything that comes to my knowledge, so that you should be sware of it.

I am also told that the old fight between Coll Cuchi and Cordova Davila is still raging and Coll has not given up his desire of having the party call for Davila's resignation. It is well for you to know that Coll and Giorgetti are very bitter enemies, as Giorgetti was a decided oponent to the Unionist caucus selecting Coll Cuchi for Speaker of the House. On the other hand, Cordova Davila and Giorgetti are very intimate friends and Coll Cuchi claims that every act of Cordova is influenced by Giorgetti.

While I was dictating the above, I received a telephone call from the Governor to go over and see him. It seems that ~~somebody~~ told him that one of the cases before the supreme Court would be decided in favor of the Attorney General and he wanted me to find out from ~~somebody~~ in the Court what the real status of the case was. He claims that ~~he has~~ the assurance from the President that if these cases now pending in the supreme Court should be decided in his favor that he would be continued here indefinitely and on the other hand, that Mestre would be removed. Of course, I don't intend to take any steps whatever, but even if I could find out what is going on, I would not tell the Governor, because I know him too well not to trust him.

The Governor told me that he had suspended Mc Clure and that the suspension meant a removal, as he would never reinstate him for the many troubles he has brought him.

I later found out thru U. S. Attorney Wells that he had counselled the governor to suspend Mc Clure and it was like pulling teeth, as the Governor wanted to sustain Mc Clure at all events.

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I will continue to keep you posted of any  
happenings and in the meanwhile, believe me to remain

Sincerely yours,