

Washington, D.C.
June 16, 1921.

Hon. Wm. Mont. Reilly,
Governor of Porto Rico,
Kansas City, Mo.

My dear Governor:

I was hurriedly called away last Saturday evening and was sorry not to be able to see you before leaving. I did not expect to be away so long, and when I got here last evening and found your telephone calls, I was sorry not to have been here before you left.

My trip to New York was on account of a telephone call to come and talk about certain matter now before the local Legislature. It is a measure called the "Bank of the People", and for the last five or six years it has been coming before the Legislature, passed and then sent to the Governor, who has never approved it.

It seems, from what interested people tell me, Governor Yager was right in not approving this measure. There are, to my counting, ten banks and banking institutions in San Juan, among them the National City Bank, The Royal Bank of Porto Rico, The Commercial Bank of Porto Rico, The American Colonial Bank and the Territorial and Agricultural Bank, all of the very first class. In the other parts of the Island, there are about half dozen banks doing small business with farmers etc.

As you know very well, the recent Farmers Loan Act was amended so as to apply to Porto Rico, and a U.S. Bank will be opened under these provisions of this Act, if proper securities are forthcoming.

Under the circumstances, why should the Porto Rican government go into the banking business, issuing \$1,000,000 in bonds for the purpose, and going into competition with these private concerns?

My friends in New York, interested in the banking business in the Island, have received assurances that the Legislature will pass again this measure and that the Acting Governor is willing to sign the bill, and they want to have you know about this and ask your help. I told them they should address you direct explaining all the circumstances, although I could not see what you would be able to do not knowing about this matter except from one side.

I saw Secretary Davis this morning and told him about my desiring to go down with you on the transport, but that I would not be able to do so if my appointment was not made before July 10th. He told me he would appoint me immediately after the President told him to, with the understanding that the appointment would not take effect until September 1st, but that this had to be done quick as he was going away the 22nd and would not be back until July 12th.

Would you kindly ask your nephew about those pictures which he promised me when he published it in the Post?

With best regards, believe me

Sincerely yours,

R.H.T.