



*Private Office*

## Galen Hall

Atlantic City, N.J.

December 19, 1921.

Robert H. Todd, Esq., C/o Lee H. Nixon,  
Headquarters, Republican National Committee,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Todd:

I have your very kind letter of December 17th, in which you tell me the good news with reference to the interview between Governor Reily and the President, the very happy manner in which the President treated the Porto Rican situation, and the assurances which he gave to the Governor of his unqualified support for himself in his policy and actions in Porto Rico.

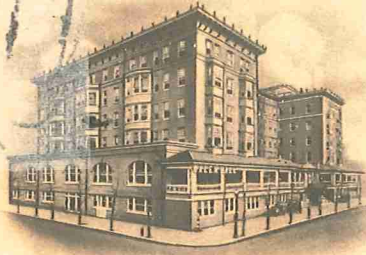
The only fear that I have in regard to the matter is that the splendid endorsement which the President has given to Governor Reily may possibly be construed by the Governor as such a strong support for him that he may not fully appreciate the necessity of abandoning the political fight in the island, and getting down to the practical constructive work of governing the island, as we have hoped would be the result of this trip.

I am still very hopeful that Secretary Weeks will have the talk with Governor Reily that he indicated he intended to have, and in any event I cannot help feeling that the whole experience of the Governor in Washington will have the effect of causing him very much sober thought and reflection, and that he will be much more inclined to be conservative in his statements and actions on his return to the island.

I notice in the New York Tribune this morning, that Barcelo professes to be very much astonished at the announcement that the Governor is to return to the island, and is rushing back to Washington with the announced intention of re-arranging everything, and he gives the intimation to the newspaper that they had some understanding with the administration in Washington that the Governor should not return to the island.

I am very certain, after what has now happened in Washington, that Mr. Barcelo will receive a chilly reception in all of the various departments in Washington, and I am rather glad he is going back to Washington because I think he will now be made to fully realize the hopelessness of attempting to push this matter any farther.

I wish you would let me know whether or not it was your understanding, at the time of the interview with the President, that the very kind statements



*Private Office*

## *Galen Hall*

*Atlantic City, N.J.*

Robert H. Todd, Esq., - 12/19/21, - 2.

of the President to Governor Reily were made in such a way as that the Governor would have a right to use them publicly; in other words, whether or not this interview might be utilized by yourself and the others present as accomplishing what we had hoped to do in the way of securing a public endorsement on the part of the President of Governor Reily's position. If this is so, then, it seems to me that we would not need anything further from the President; but, on the other hand, if it is your understanding that, like most of the conferences with the President, it would not be permissible to quote what was said by the President, than I think it is even more important than ever that we should secure some written statement of endorsement from the President, supporting the position of Governor Reily, before we go back to Porto Rico. I have thought that this might be done in the nature of a farewell note to Governor Reily from the President, and I will take up this matter with the Governor before he goes back.

In the meantime, I have already telegraphed you, asking you to let me know the movements of Governor Reily, as I am anxious to get in touch with him, but I think I will address a note to him at Kansas City, on the presumption that he will have gone there, as I assume that he would not want to stay in Washington in view of what the President said to him at the interview.

Thanking you very kindly for your very satisfactory account of what occurred at this conference, hoping that you will keep in touch with me in accord with the address which I left with you when in Washington, and wishing you all kinds of good times during the holidays, I am

Very truly yours,

*W. H. Taft*