

TRANSLATION.

October 28, 1921.

Honorable Antonio R. Barcelo,
President of the Unionist Party and
President of the Senate,
San Juan, Porto Rico,

My dear friend:-

If it was not for the high political character of the matter of which I am about to write, I would abstain to send you this detailed information of the case; but I feel that in my capacity as a unionist and as a Porto Rican, it is my duty to give to you, as President of the Senate and as President of the Unionist Party, who had to do with my appointment to the position which I now hold in the Government of my country, of the occurrences which were the basis of this letter and which took place between the Governor of the Island and the undersigned, in taking up a matter of government.

I was in Utuado on the 25th of October directing the campaign against the appearance of the typhoid fever and from there I was called by telephone by the Military aide of the Governor at the request of the latter for a personal interview. By arrangement, said interview was had on the 27th instant, at 11:00 A. M.

After informing him of the satisfactory state of the Public Health, as regards the bubonic plague and after informing him of the work done in Utuado as regards the typhoid fever, the Governor apparently very much worked up, asked me if I had made a list of appointments, I answered that it was true and then, in a tone of reprimand, he stated that I was the only head of Department that did not consulted appointments with him; that the Law required that all such appointments be submitted to him for his approval and that altho I was a "good fellow", I was yielding to the influence of political leaders.

His tone of voice was so intemperate that I felt it was my duty to demand from him more courtesy in his manner with me and I assured him that I could explain and justify my acting in the matter.

I stated then that I had made the appointments of Inspectors of Sanitation in accordance with the Civil Service Law, with which requirement I had complied and I had not submitted them to the approval of the Governor because the Law did not required it.

He then showed me Article 26 of the Sanitation Law, which establishes the requirement of the approval of the Governor for all those appointments, and then I informed him that such

article was repealed by the Municipal Law. He invoked the authority of the Attorney General with whom he had consulted and I replied that the Attorney General could have been mistaken, as in that case, for example.

He then asked me why I had appointed a brother of a man whom he had dismissed from office (referring to Mr. E. Torres Monge). I informed him that I did not know that Mr. Torres Monge, appointed by me, was a brother of the one which he had dismissed as Secretary of the Municipal Court of San Juan and that I have appointed him because he was holding an office of Sanitation in the Municipality of Camuy. I had sent him to Aguadilla.

The Governor then stated his will that no independentista should be appointed and, furthermore, that he was opposed that the Republicans be not taken into account. I informed him that I had appointed all those eligible found in the registry of the Civil Service Commission for the position of Inspectors of Sanitation, without regard to their political affiliation, and that of them, a good number were republicans. That as regard other positions, in the absence of eligible in said Registry, I had appointed competent persons of whom I had received good information of officers in the Service; that it was natural that I should prefer unionists for these positions because they would help better for my success, as I could not expect, logically, the same thing from my political enemies. I informed him that that was my policy

and furthermore, that I had respected in their places all honest and efficient officials, whom I have found in the Department when I took charge of the same, even if they were republicans. But if I have to appoint new employees and had to respond exclusively to my will, I would appoint efficient unionists who would be loyal to me.

I had to repeat this several times inasmuch as he insisted in asking me if I would appoint republicans.

The Governor insisted that I should have taken to him the list of appointments for him to go over them with Messrs. Huyke and Mestre, who knew more of politics than I. I replied that neither Mr. Mestre nor Mr. Huyke were in better condition than I to judge of the necessities of the Sanitation Service nor of the capacity of the persons for such service.

And finally, I made him know that I would not continue in the office of Commissioner of Health of Porto Rico if I was not clothed with all the authority and all the consideration and all the prestige due to same. This ended the interview.

I do not doubt that you will appreciate in all its value and reaching this happening and I authorize you to make use of this letter at any time when you should deem it convenient.

I remain, with due respect and consideration

Your affectionate friend,

(Sgd.) Doctor Alejandro Ruiz Soler.