

H. P. COATS,
Attorney and Counselor,
SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.
TELEPHONE BUILDING

September
fourteen
1922

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

Dear Mr. Todd:

I was very glad to receive your letter of the sixth enclosing copy of resolution endorsing Judge Towner and myself and assure you that I very much appreciate the compliment paid me by the unequivocal language of the resolution.

On receipt of your letter I called Senator Wadsworth at Washington, to ask him to find out if there is any likelihood of a move being made in the situation in the near future. I found that he was at his home in Geneseo, New York, where I reached him yesterday. He advised me that he had heard nothing new and that he expected hourly to receive a telephone to return to Washington, and suggested that I write him there as a reminder, and he would try to find out from the Secretary of War what the situation is, and inform me. I am writing him today enclosing a copy of the endorsement, and I am also writing Mr. Hilles and Gleason.

If I hear from Senator Wadsworth that anything is likely to happen in the near future, either Judge Franco or I will send you a blind cable using the word "decision" in referring to action in the matter.

Both the Judge and I feel that if it is convenient, it would be well for you to come up and get in touch with Judge Towner, which would probably result in earlier action than otherwise if there is any idea of having him go to Porto Rico before he goes to the Philippines, if it is still the intention of the Administration to send him to the Philippines. Certainly immediate action is necessary if the program you outlined last Spring is to be carried out.

I think it would be a good idea if you would write Mr. Hilles asking him to communicate to you or me, any in-

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formation he gets on the subject.

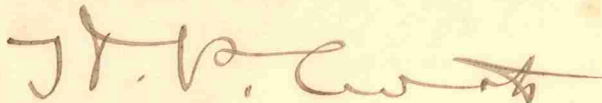
Please do not take this letter to indicate that I am seeking or anxious for early action. I believe the situation will work out to our entire satisfaction and am perfectly content to leave matters in the hands of my friends, and at the same time am ready to play any part that they deem advisable.

Judge Franco recently had a letter from Judge Toro, stating that he would visit Saranac Lake before his return to the Island. It is needless for me to say that I am looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to meeting him.

The Judge is enjoying his vacation and feeling fine.

I hope to be able to send you further news before the boat sails next week, and in the meantime, remain, with best regards to yourself and my other good friends,

Sincerely yours,



HPC-ERA

P. S. - In accordance with your suggestion, I have written Mr. Lee Nixon, and herewith enclose a copy of my letter to him.

TRADUCCION.

Septiembre 14, 1922.

Honorable Roberto H. Todd,
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico.

Estimado Sr. Todd:-

Me alegré mucho recibir su carta del 6 incluyéndome copia de la Resolución endosando al Juez Towner y a mi y le aseguro que aprecio muy mucho el cumplimiento que se me hace por la fraseología inequívoca de la Resolución.

Al recibir su carta llamé por teléfono al Senador Wadsworth en Washington para preguntarle que averiguase si había oportunidad de algún cambio en la situación en el cercano futuro. Encontré que el Senador se hallaba en su casa en Geneseo, N. Y., donde me puse en contacto con él ayer. Me dijo que él no había sabido nada nuevo y que esperaba a cada momento recibir un telefonema llamándolo de nuevo a Washington y me sugirió que le escribiese allí como un recordatorio y él trataría de averiguar por conducto del Secretario de la Guerra cual era la situación y me informaría. Estoy escribiéndole hoy é incluyéndole copia del endoso y también le escribo a Mr. Hilles y a Mr. Gleason.

Si por conducto del Senador Wadsworth me entero si es posible que suceda algo en el cercano futuro, bien el Juez Franco o yo le enviaremos a Ud. un cable, usando la palabra "decision" al referirnos a alguna acción en el asunto.

Tanto el Juez como yo creemos que si es conveniente, sería bueno que Ud. viniese y se pusiese en contacto con el Juez Towner, el que probablemente lo que probablemente daría por resultado una acción más pronta que de otro modo, si es que hay alguna idea de que él vaya a Puerto Rico antes de que vaya a las Filipinas si es aún la intención de la Administración de enviarlo a Filipinas. Verdaderamente se necesita acción inmediata si el programa que Ud. explicó en la Primavera pasada ha de llevarse a efecto.

Me parece que sería una buena idea el que Ud. escribiese a Mr. Hilles pidiéndole que le comunique a Ud. o a mi cualquier información que él obtenga en el asunto.

Sírvase no tomar esta carta como indicación de que yo estoy buscando o estoy ansioso de una pronta acción. Yo creo que la situación resultará a nuestra entera satisfacción y estoy perfectamente contento de dejar los asuntos en las manos de mis amigos y al

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mismo tiempo estoy pronto a hacer el papel que ellos crean aconsejable.

El Juez Franco recientemente tuvo una carta del Juez Toro diciéndole que lo visitaría en Saranac Lake antes de su salida a la Isla. Es inútil que yo diga que espero tener un gran placer al conocerlo.

El Juez está gozando sus vacaciones y está bien.

Espero poderle enviar a Ud. más noticias antes de la salida del próximo correo y en el entretanto, con los mejores deseos para Ud. y para mis otros amigos

suyo,

(fdo.) H. P. COATS.

P. D.

De acuerdo con lo que Ud. sugiere, he escrito a Mr. Lee Nixon y con la presente le incluyo copia de dicha carta.

February 19, 1923.

Hon. H. B. Coats,
Saranac Lake, N. Y.

My dear Senator:-

This morning I received your notice to call up the Saranac Lake operator, but before doing so I want to write this letter and get it off, so as to be able to say that I have already written you. You must excuse me for not having done so before, but I have been very busy all day Saturday and yesterday.

I had my talk with the President last Friday afternoon, and at that time I had received a cable informing me that Reily was sending his resignation by wire that same day, to take effect on the first of April. The President had not yet received the resignation, but told me that he expected it and that he would immediately act, so as to have the new man confirmed before the 4th of March. He also told me that he was going to "fire" the Attorney General and have another man appointed from up here.

To my inquiry as to who the new Governor would be, the President answered that at that time he was not sure who the man would be, but that the man picked would have to carry out his instructions and not allow the Unionists to get the upper hand and push him off the Island as they had done with Reily. I inquired as to Judge Towner, and he told me that no man who was too friendly to Mr. Cordova Davila would make a good Governor.

I thought it was then my opportunity to present your name, telling the President that our people had indorsed you for the position, and all that we thought of you. The President asked me several questions about you, but I must be frank with you and say that although he said that

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he would consider your name when the time came. I noted that I did not make any impression upon him at all. I believe that it would be a good opportunity now to have Senator Wadsworth and other friends of yours take up the matter direct with the President and urge your appointment, as I understand that at this writing there is no one considered seriously for the position.

I had a talk this morning with the Secretary of War and he told me that Judge Towner was entirely out of the question on account of his usefulness in Congress, and considering the small margin that the Republicans will have in the next Congress, when, if Judge Towner goes out, a new man without experience would succeed him. Judge Towner, who was considered the strongest candidate for the position, being out of the way now, I believe that if your friends should get behind your candidacy, you would have a good chance.

I want to say that since yesterday morning, I have moved to the Chastleton Apartments, 16th & R Sts., Room 612, but you may address me at the National Committee rooms.

Without any further today, believe me to remain,

Sincerely yours,

Traducción.

Mayo 11, 1923.

Mi estimado Sr. Coats:-

"Usted puede tener la certeza de que ni mi Partido ni yo personalmente le pondremos a Ud. en situación embarazosa en su capacidad oficial como Attorney General de Puerto Rico."

Estas fueron mis palabras a Ud. en la noche de Marzo 3, 1923, mientras hablabamos de cama a cama en el Hotel Chastleton, en Washington, y recuerdo haber repetido esto mismo en la presencia de la Sra. Coats en el tren viniendo a Nueva York. Esta era mi contestación a lo que Ud. me dijo de haber manifestado al Gen. Mc Intyre sobre consultarme en asuntos oficiales.

Confieso que hasta ahora he cumplido mi promesa, por lo menos, no creo haber abusado de las prerrogativas de Ud., excepto el dia en que fui lo suficientemente franco para congratularlo por el nombramiento de cierto joven como Traductor en su oficina. Usted no tuvo a bién preguntarme la razón de mi congratulación, y así quedó el asunto. Esto sucedió como hace tres semanas. Anteriormente nos veiamos casi todos los dias y cuando Ud. no tomaba el lunch conmigo yo comia con Ud. Desde entonces me he quedado a la retaguardia y como Ud. no ha demostrado disposición alguna, para notarlo, lo he dejado solo hasta ayer cuando obligué a Ud. a invitarme que le acompañara con la Sra. Coats a ir a Humacao mañana.

Ahora las cosas se han puesto de modo, según me ha telefonado Ud. esta mañana, confirmado lo que Todd Jr. me dijo anoche, que indica que sería mejor que yo no vaya a Humacao con Ud. y yo graciosamente acepto su decisión en el asunto y he telegrafiado al Sr. Aponte que yo no iré.

Quiero asegurarle a Ud. que cumpliré mi promesa original a Ud., ya que conozco todas las influencias que mis amigos los unionistas son capaces de ejercer para tratar de destruir nuestra amistad.

Créame quedar

Su afectísimo amigo,

Fdo. R. H. Todd.

Hon. H. P. Coats,
Attorney General de P. R.,
San Juan, P. R.