

May 18th, 1922.

Hon. Jose Tous Soto,
Ponce, P. R.

My dear friend:-

As I wrote you last, I went to New York to spend a few days, and on Saturday morning last I received a cablegram from my son which said more or less, as follows:-

"Have just found out that there is a combination between the Governor, Barcelo, Huyke and Benedicto whereby Reily is to leave on a short vacation, leaving either Huyke or Benedicto as acting Governor. Then an extra session of the Legislature will be called and new heads of Departments submitted in accordance with the desires of Barcelo. Please see that neither Huyke nor Barcelo is appointed acting Governor, and we suggest the name of Dr. Lippitt. Better still, oppose the leaving of Governor Reily."

I immediately wrote a letter to Judge Towner and explained the situation, giving him a copy of the cablegram as coming from both yourself and my son. On my arrival here Tuesday night, I saw Towner and he said that he had sent my letter to the Secretary of War and had decided to do so because on that same date, he had received a letter from Huyke which confirmed everything that the cablegram said and he read me the letter written by Huyke, in which Huyke, answering Towner's letter similar to the one you received, goes on to explain the situation as he sees it, and then defends the Governor. He takes occasion in his letter to give his opinion as to the rights of the majority party in regard to appointments to office. He also claims that the situation in which the Governor finds himself makes it impossible for him to come to a clear understanding with the majority party and suggests that the Governor come north on a leave of absence and that either himself or Benedicto be appointed acting Governor, who will be able to carry out a plan of reconciliation, in which the majority party will be appeased, if they are given the offices to which they are entitled, including those as members of the Governor's cabinet. Towner also read me his answer to Huyke, and I want to say that it was a very short letter, but neither you nor I would have improved it in the tone and spirit. Towner clearly tells

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Huyke that he cannot agree with him absolutely in his ideas of appeasing a party that is responsible for all that has happened lately in Porto Rico, and that he is neither satisfied with the idea that such a compromise can be made under the basis of offices. He believes in principles and is always willing to agree upon such basis. From the whole tone of the letter, I am sure that Huyke will receive a shock, and if he shows it to Reily, as I am sure that he showed his letter to Towner, Reily will also receive a shock. Towner told me that he had sent to the Secretary of War a copy of his letter to Huyke.

Towner has received about fifteen or twenty letters in answer to his inquiry, and he asked me to help him go over them and mark my opinion of the different people writing, and I have done so. There are letters from Sifre, Santini, Georgetti, Vanga, yourself, Hartsell, Sweet, Howard Hull, and many others that I cannot recall now. Outside of yours, Sifre and Hartsell's, you cannot make out what the others are recommending, as in one paragraph they seem to be condemning Reily and in the next they defend him.

General Banholtz has returned and Towner tells me that although he knows that he has made his report to the Secretary, he has not told him anything. He said he has not seen the Secretary for a couple of days.

Towner told me that he had requested Davila not to make any more speeches or give any more information regarding Reily, as that would harm Porto Rico more than he could imagine, and said that Davila promised him that he would keep quiet. I told Towner that would not bar Jones from going ahead with his campaign.

At the same time that I received my son's cablegram, I received one from Ponce, which, at first, seemed to have been sent by Lippitt, but on second thought I decided it came from you, as I couldn't see how Lippitt could have sent it in our cipher. You will see how it read after I tried to interpret it:

13416	Rumour
18422	afterward
	Huyke
20505	call
14202	session
22713	departure
24919	goal
20915	change
20412	business
20213	subject
	Lippitt

Of course, I could not get any sense out of this, but as I had received the other one from my son, I surmised what you wanted to tell me.

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I had a long talk this morning with Col. Townshend, who is still a candidate for the Governorship and he tells me that he is endorsed by Senator McCormick of Illinois and of Congressmen Cannon, Rodenburg, and Anthony, and that Rodenburg told him that if he could get the endorsement of both political organizations in Porto Rico, and especially if he could get me to see the President and the Secretary of War in his favor, that he believed that they would be able to put him through. Of course, I could not help promising the Colonel my unqualified support, but told him frankly also that there were other candidates mentioned who seemed to have good endorsements. I did promise the Colonel that I would see the Secretary of War and tell him what I thought of the Colonel's candidacy.

Townshend told me that a certain Congressman told him yesterday that he had seen the Secretary of War in the morning and was informed, confidentially, that the President had written to Reily, telling him to fix up matters and come over to Washington prepared to stay. Although Townshend did not tell me the name of the Congressman, he did tell me that it was a very close friend to Weeks and that he believed the information was correct. I immediately went to the War Department, but being Cabinet day, I was unable to see the Secretary, as he does not see people in the afternoon except on very special appointments, but I did make an appointment for tomorrow morning at half past nine.

I then went to see Towner, and he did not know anything, although he told me that he supposed that the information was correct, as that was what he was expecting to happen any moment. He then showed me a copy of the letter which he wrote to the Secretary of War last Saturday afternoon, when he received mine from New York, and the letter is very explicit. Recommends Dr. Lippitt to take Reily's place as acting Governor and that in case Huyke should remain as such, that the President should instruct him not to do anything unusual, especially not to call any extra session of the Legislature for any purpose whatever, as that should be left for the new Governor to decide in his discretion. The letter covered every point desired. I have promised Towner to let him know the result of my talk with Mr. Weeks tomorrow, and he likewise has promised me to let me know what he finds out. I will, therefore, probably send you a cablegram tomorrow telling you what has been done.

Towner insisted this morning that I should remain here until something definite happens, and under the circumstances I am writing Geigel, and I now ask you to confirm this with him, to send me some more funds, as my provision will not last longer than I expected to be here.

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Yesterday morning I met Mr. Ernest Thomas, of Indiana, who has been appointed Manager of the Porto Rico Branch of the Farm Loan Bank, and who is to sail for Porto Rico tomorrow to establish the said bank. We had a long talk about different matters, in which he is naturally interested, for although he was on the Island last year looking over the situation, there remained certain points pertaining to matters of registration of titles which he wanted me to clear up for him. I find him a very agreeable man to deal with and quite intelligent in the business which he is about to undertake. He has been in the banking business some years and is a very intimate friend of Senator Watson of Indiana. We went to the Cosmos Club to have luncheon with Judge Lbbdell, Commissioner of the Farm Loan Board, and we continued the conversation about the whole situation. I have told Mr. Thomas to get in touch with you and Mr. Sanchez Morales for any information which he desires. The interest to be charged on loans, which will be guaranteed by mortgages, will be 6%, and the amount to be invested is unlimited. The highest amount to be loaned to any individual is \$5,000. As I am sure that you will meet Mr. Thomas, I hope you will talk to him about many other details interesting both to himself and to our organization. By-the-way, I must say that Mr. Thomas is a staunch Republican.

This morning Judge Towner read me, confidentially, a copy of a cablegram from Barcelo to Davila. It was a long one telling of the troubles in Fajardo, and, of course, saying a good deal of things against the poor municipal Judge, whose character he blackens and claims that he ought to be removed, for his action in turning over the municipal office to the Socialist party. He also tells him that Governor Reilly, in trying to ingratiate himself with the Unionist party, had been trying to get the Attorney General to exonerate him from the charges brought by the grand jury and had asked Coll Cuchi to defend him in case he was accused of any crime. That both had refused, and that he, Barcelo, had been obliged to publicly advise all Senators and Representatives not to visit the Government House. Towner told me that he wanted me to keep this secret, because if it was found out that he was showing me this cablegram, Davila would not bring any more to him. I forgot to say that when Towner read me Huyke's letter and his answer, he remarked that he was sorry for Huyke because that attitude of his had killed him politically.

Nothing more at this writing, and believe me,

Yours sincerely,