

February 15, 1922.

Hon. John W. Weeks,
Secretary of War,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Since my return from the mainland, I have been remembering the promise I made to you to keep you advised of anything of importance that should happen in a general way. Fortunate for all concerned, nothing has happened out of the way that merited my troubling you with my correspondence.

Unfortunately, something has arisen which I believe I should bring to your notice.

As you are well aware, the local Senate was convened by the Governor, by provisions of the Organic Act to meet on the 13th day of this month to take up the consideration of appointments made during the recess of the Senate. On the 11th inst., I was able to secure a copy of a cablegram which was sent from Washington to Mr. Barcelo by the Resident Commissioner, F. Cordova Davila, a copy of which I am enclosing herewith for your perusal. As you will notice, both Mr. Cordova Davila and Mr. Jones are still continuing the old attacks on the Governor and this time calling upon the Senate of Porto Rico in Executive session to pass a resolution asking Congress to take up the old fight in which they failed entirely before the Administration at Washington.

Of course, I don't know what the local Senate will do in the premises. The Governor has sent in his appointments and the same has been referred to a standing committee for report and there are many rumors of what the Senate will and what they will not do, and of course, we will have to wait and see by the actual results.

Hon. John W. Weeks.
Page 2.

I must say to you that the contents of the cablegram in question was never given to the public by Mr. Barce-
lo and I believe that only his most intimate friends in the
Party know about it. But there is something in the minds
of the members of the Senate, as shown by a resolution intro-
duced yesterday by the Vice.-President of the Senate to ammend
the rules so as to allow the Senate to hold secret sessions
at any time and to expel from that Body any Senator who may
make public any action, resolution or decision taken by the
Senate in such secret sessions. This action of private ses-
sions is in violation of the express provisions of section
34 of the Organic Act as follows:

"The sessions of each House and of
the Committees of the whole shall be
open."

When this motion was taken up in the Committee on
Rules yesterday, one of our Senators called the attention of
the Committee to the discussion had in the United States Se-
nate at the time the Jones bill was under discussion and how
an original provision allowing secret sessions was entirely
stricken out and the provision copied above was placed in its
stead. He also give notice that, as to the threat of expul-
sion, he would claim the right to make public any resolution,
action or decision of the Senate passed by a majority of votes
and if by such an action the Senate so fit to expel him, he
would apply to the courts for redress.

I do not think Mr. Secretary, that I should make
this letter any longer, but will promisse to keep you posted
as to any developments arising from the present meeting of
the Senate and will appr~~aise~~ise you of the action which may be
taken by the said body in regard to the Governor's appoint-
ments.

Believe me to remain

Very resepetfully,

RHT/gb
Encls.

THE INDEPENDENT
and
THE WEEKLY REVIEW.

February 11, 1922.

ACT AT ONCE, MR. HARDING (Title)

President Harding has been imposed upon and the result is an appointment to office that is indefensible on any grounds. We refer to the appointment of one E. Mont. Reilly, of Kansas City, to be Governor of Porto Rico. Were the appointment to an office in our own country it would be bad enough in all conscience, but we could bear with it; as an answer to the responsibilities America has assumed in this Island dependency it is unthinkable.

The record of Reilly is such that his name should never ~~be~~ have been considered. At one time assistant postmaster of Kansas City he was several times investigated and recommended for removal and finally dismissed for cause. Immediately upon receiving the present appointment, for which he was in every way unfitted, he proceeded to remove able officials, even before reaching his post, to make places for his equally incompetent associates. In this connection ugly stories are afloat to the effect that venal considerations entered into these appointments in other words, a commission on their salaries, and color is given to these charges by the affidavit of a reputable man in Kansas City as to such overtures being made to him.

In the six months he has been in Porto Rico he has succeeded in disrupting the civil service and intimidating the courts. His conduct has been that of a cheap politician combined with oriental satrap. The prestige of American in the Island has suffered sadly and the seed has been sown for infinite trouble.

We admire in President Harding the equality of loyalty to those in whom he has once placed confidence, and we should not esteem him so highly as we do were he to listen to idle gossip concerning his appointees. But here is a case where he has been shamefully imposed upon and the honor of America demands he acts promptly. Reilly should be suspended at once pending investigation. In a few days the Senate of Porto Rico will meet and its first act will be to reject the Governor's appointments, which are an offense to the decent people of the island. Then investigation will come perforce. Now is the time to act, if a noisome scandal is to be averted.

Saturday, P. H.,
Feb. 11, 1922.

Barcelo.

San Juan.

Jones and I urge strongly that the Senate pass a Resolution requesting Congress to inquire immediately into the official acts of E. Mont. Reily as Governor of Porto Rico such as removal of judges-comma-intimidation of judiciary-comma-dismissal of efficient men to office-comma-insulting the people of Porto Rico in speeches by remarks about the flag of Porto Rico-comma-conduct unbecoming a gentleman and high official-comma-detrimental to the best interests of United States and Porto Rico-stop-jones thinks that such resolution instead of jeopardizing prospects Campbell bill-comma-would further its cause by creating a national interest in the affairs of Porto Rico.

Cordova.

Feb. 15, 1922.

Barcelo.

San Juan.

Campbell says it would be better for the Senate not to adopt the resolution leaving to me to ask for a Congressional investigation if it is necessary. He thinks that the Senate ought to act on the merits of the appointments. Judge Towner says that he does not want to express an opinion in the matter. Keep me informed about affairs in Porto Rico regarding Reily. Remit funds.

Cordova.

San Juan, P. R.,
Feb. 16, 1922.

Cordova.

Washington.

Rechazados Lippitt, Wilson, Toro, en amplio informe sosteniendo principios carta organica. Confirmados 32 funcionarios y rechazados Diaz Cintron y Aybar. Exponiendo motivos y pendiéndose discusión ocho entre ellos Hartzell y Carmona. Asunto Gobernador igual, no declinaremos nuestra actitud por simples promesas ni efimeras concesiones stop hecho ya todo sacrificio impónese solución satisfactoria pais. Cablegrafiamos Banco Dupont seiscientos enviaremos resto cantidad.

Barcelo.

(TRANSLATION)

Feb. 16, 1922.

Cordova.

Washington.

Lippitt, Wilson, Toro rejected in ample report sustaining principles of the Organica Act. Confirmed 32 officials and rejected

Diaz Cintron, Aybar giving reasons and pending discussion there are 8, among them Hartnell and Cammona. Matter Governor the same, will not change our attitude for simple promises nor flimsy concessions. We have made all sacrifices and a satisfactory solution for the country is necessary. Have cabled Dupont Bank six hundred. Will send balance of amount.

Barcelo.

Washington, D. C.,
Feb. 17, 1922.

Barcelo.

San Juan.

Your cable pleases me very much. Plans actively under way for action in Congress. I will make speech at earliest opportunity followed by a resolution which will probably be introduced by a republican.

Cordova.

Washington, D. C.,
Feb. 21, 1922.

Barcelo.

San Juan.

I have not been able to obtain the floor to-day stop if cannot speak tomorrow or thursday I will do so on Friday.

Cordova.

Washington, D. C.
Feb. 17, 1922.

Barcelo.
San Juan.

Your cable pleases me very much. Plans actively under way for action in Congress. I will make speech at earliest opportunity followed by a resolution which will probably be introduced by a republican.

F. Cordova Davila.

Washington, D. C.,
Feb. 21, 1922.

Barcelo.
San Juan.

Your cable received am prepared to go the limit Senate of Porto Rico should pass resolution asking Congress to investigate Reilly everything here favorable press helping us.

Cordova.

Washington, D. C.,
Feb. 21, 1922.

Barcelo.
San Juan.

Campaign against Reilly launched in full force stop New York Times has adopted fight on Reilly as a policy of the paper do not comma under any circumstances comma give in stop am making impeachment speech in Congress tomorrow stop cable developments.

Cordova.

Washington, D. C.
Feb. 21/22.

Barcelo.
San Juan.

I have not been able to obtain the floor to-day stop if cannot speak tomorrow or thursday I will do so on friday.

Cordova.

Washington, D. C.,
Feb. 21, 1922.

Barcelo.

San Juan.

I suggest Senate adopt a resolution thanking President Harding for his letter about Campbell Bill.

Cordova.

San Juan, P. R.,
Feb. 22, 1922.

Cordova.

Washington.

Associated press has transmitted the following cable quoted relative reports charges filed against Gov. Reilly said White House Reilly proceeding P. R. affairs with ruled support Harding and no charges against Reilly brought to White House President said had fullest confidence in Reilly and believes he carrying administration P. R. in worthy and successful manner despite attacks unquote please ascertain immediately truth in matter and reason for it if true stop answer quick.

Barcelo.

Washington, D. C.,
Feb. 22, 1922.

Barcelo.

San Juan.

President did make statement relative Reilly comma answered by me comma probably effort to block investigation stop my speech will be delivered earliest opportunity stop press supporting me.

Cordova.

Washington, D. C.,
Feb. 21, 1922.

Barcelo.

San Juan.

Your cable received am prepared to go the limit Senate of Porto Rico should pass resolution asking Congress to investigate Reilly everything here favorable press helping us.

Cordova.

Feb. 21, 1922.

Barcelo.

San Juan.

Campaign against Reilly launched in full force stop New York Times has adopted fight on Reilly as a policy of the paper do not comma under any circumstances comma give in stop am making impeachment speech in Congress tomorrow stop cable developments.

Cordova.

Feb. 21, 1922.

Barcelo.

San Juan.

I suggest Senate adopt a resolution thnaking President Harding for his letter about Campbell Bill.

Cordova.

Feb. 22, 1922.

Barcelo.

San Juan.

Evidence against Reilly that you took to Porto Rico urgently needed here stopplease send it by next boat.

Corddva.

Feb. 22, 1922.

Barcelo.

San Juan.

President did make statement relative Reilly comma answered by me comma probably effort to block investigation stop my speech will be delivered earliest opportunity stop press supporting me.

Cordova.

Saturday, P.M.,
Feb. 11, 1922.

Barcelo.

San Juan,

Jones and I urge strongly that the Senate pass a Resolution requesting Congress to inquire immediately into the official acts of E. Mort. Reilly as governor of Porto Rico such as removal of judges-comma-intimidation of judiciary-comma-dismissal of efficient officials-comma-appointment of incapable inefficient and inexperienced men to office-comma-insulting the people of Porto Rico (in speeches by remarks about the flag of Porto Rico) comma-conduct unbecoming a gentleman and a high official-comma-detrimental to the best interests of United States and of Porto Rico-stop-Jones thinks that such resolution instead of jeopardizing prospects Campbell bill-comma-would further its cause by creating a national interest in the affairs of Porto Rico.

F. Cordova Davila.

Washington, D. C.,
February 15, 1922.

Barcelo.

San Juan.

Campbell says it should be better for the Senate not to adopt the resolution leaving to me to ask for a Congressional investigation if it is necessary. He thinks that the Senate ought to act on the merits of the appointments. Judge Towner says that he does not want to express an opinion in the matter. Keep me informed about affairs in Porto Rico regarding Reilly.

Cordova.

San Juan, P. R.,
Feb. 22, 1922.

Cordova.
Washington.

Associated press has transmitted the following cable
quote relative reports charges filed against Governor Reily
said White House Reily proceeding P. R. Affairs with ruled
support Harding and no charges against Reily brought to White
House President said had fullest confidence in Reily and be-
lieves he carrying administration Porto Rico in worthy and suc-
cessful manner despite attacks unquote please ascertain immediate-
ly thruth in matter and reason for it if true stop answer quick.

Barcelo.