

San Juan, Porto Rico,

February 18, 1925.

Mr. Lee Nixon,
Munsey Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Lee:-

I have not received a single line from you for some time now and I suppose that you have been busy.

Cable news received yesterday brought to me the shock of the death of your friend Upham. Although I knew that he was not in good health I never suspected that he would pass away so rapidly. Another of the old friends gone. I suppose that you have been as much shocked as I with his death, and as it happens with me, everyone that drops off makes you feel sadder and sadder.

John Gay was in to see me yesterday and told me about his visit with you.

Everybody is home again except Iglesias, but I have been lately under the weather and have not had the chance of a talk with Cayetano yet.

Let me hear from you whenever you have a chance and believe me to remain as ever,

Sincerely,

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

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ASST. TREASURER

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS
MUNSEY BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

JAMES B. REYNOLDS
DIRECTOR

February 26, 1925.

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

Dear Roberto:

I have your letter of February 18. I knew you would be shocked at the news of the death of our good friend, Fred Upham, and by this time you have received the news that another friend, Senator McCormick, has passed away. He was found dead in his room at the Hamilton Hotel yesterday.

I saw by "The Progress", which I received last night, that the Bar Association passed resolution endorsing Odlin for reappointment. I believe I wrote you a few days ago that Holland said as far as he knew Odlin would succeed himself and I think there is no doubt about this.

I am sorry you are not going to be here for the Inaugural ceremonies but will expect a visit from you later on. I should think by this time, with all the trouble you have had in straightening out the matters in the City Hall that you would be badly in need of a vacation, and the only way for you to get a rest is to leave Porto Rico.

Our friend, Ed. Schmidt, is leaving Saturday for a four months business trip to Europe.

George Lockwood has changed the name of his paper to the "National Republic" and it will be issued monthly instead of weekly. The first monthly issue under the change will appear in April. The paper will be changed in form and will be printed on better paper, something after the style of "Outdoors", a copy of which you have already received. I suggested to George the other day that he ought to run a historical article on Porto Rico either in the "Republic" or the "Outdoors" magazine. He is very anxious to do this and asked me to write you to see if some one down there could not prepare or write a historical sketch of Porto Rico, not to exceed 2,500 words. With this article, of course, he would want some scenic views of the Island, the very best that can be secured. It seems to me that this is a good opportunity to get some real beneficial publicity and I hope you can interest some one down there in preparing a good article on Porto Rico.

I understand that Mr. E. P. Mitchell, formerly of the old "New York Sun" is spending the winter down there. Do you think he would be interested in writing something about the Island? I wish you would feel him out on the proposition. He evidently likes the place, as I understand he has been spending several winters there, and I imagine he would be glad to do any little thing to help the Island along.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Herminson

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WILLIAM V. HODGES
TREASURER

MUNSEY BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 24, 1925.

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

Dear Robert:

I have been unable to see Colonel Donovan but Mr White of our office has told him that he has some information regarding the federal judgeship at Porto Rico which he thinks ought to be in his possession, but the Colonel is out of the city today and will not be back until next Monday. He told Mr White nothing would be done until he returned. I hope to see him at that time. I am interested in hearing the details about the Odlin-Gay controversy. I presume the full report of this affair will be made to the Department.

I am enclosing herewith an editorial from the Post of this morning, which I think will be of interest to you.

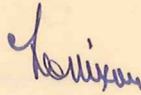
The Post Office authorities here are very much concerned over the shortages and embezzlements which have been taking place in the postal service in Porto Rico. The Postmaster General told me yesterday that he was thinking of sending two experts to Porto Rico to see if anything could be done in the way of keeping a closer check on the money-order business, thereby lessening the opportunities for dishonest clerks to use government funds. *The* Committee at the Department is going over the situation, and may reach some conclusions in the matter within a few days.

The examination papers for the San Juan Post Office have not yet been received by the Civil Service Commission. I understand there are about nineteen candidates. The selection as you know will have to be made from the three receiving the highest percentage. I have received letters from quite a few of the applicants telling me they have given my name as reference. I have not the slightest idea who will be appointed, and I have an

idea that it is some relief to you not to be bothered with the matter. Under the circumstances, I would hesitate a long time before I would again take upon my shoulders the responsibilities of that office. And I wonder sometimes why anyone makes a fight for it.

With best wishes,

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lee Nixon", written in a cursive style.

Lee Nixon

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LEE NIXON
1027 MUNSEY BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 12/25

Dr. Robert.

Yours of May 7 just received.

I learned of the Coats episode since I wrote you last. I saw Wells last Saturday and got my news from him. I knew, of course, that Coats' boys were numbered and was anxious to know who his successor was to be. Swire insisted on a native and I think recommended Munoz. I also heard that the General had recommended Munoz. Swire saw Wells before he called on the attorney General but Wells says he never came back to see him as he learned from Pargent that no one in Porto Rico would be appointed. A man here has been selected or rather has been offered the place, and his acceptance will probably be announced before this letter reaches you. I am not at liberty to mention his name at this time. I believe his appointment will be a good one. I do not know him personally but expect to meet him when he returns here next week and will take occasion to say a good word for your son. This man, I understand, speaks Spanish, and is a high-grade man in every respect. Here is a little side-light on this appointment that will interest you because it will show the

attitude of certain officials here toward the "powers
that be" in Porto Rico. After this man was tendered
the appointment of Attorney General he had a talk
with the officials in the Insular Bureau. When the
place was first mentioned to this man, it rather
appealed to him and he was inclined to accept at
once but Wells tells me that when he returned
to the Department of Justice after his visit to the
Insular Bureau he was somewhat discouraged. Among
other things he was told at the Bureau that
along of the ^{the} position was one thousand dollars less than
it really is. Evidently the Bureau was for Soriano's
man. From what I could learn I think the Attorney
General had his mind made up at once that
a native would not be appointed to succeed Coats
and I am wondering if he wasn't influenced in
making such a decision because of the way things have
been going on under the former regime. And I am
wondering, too, if the Atty Gen'l and the President haven't
talked matters over. Of course this appointment was not
decided upon by the Atty Gen'l without first consulting the
President. Since the Governor recommended Menoy it seems
the appointment of someone else indicates a lack of
confidence in the Governor.

Now as to the Government. I can't say loose
any information anywhere regarding a change in
this position. Wells knows nothing, but he thinks
the President is fully advised as to conditions.
And I agree with Wells that if any change
is contemplated, it will not take place
until after Turner comes up. I understand

LEE NIXON
1027 MUNSEY BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

he is due here ^{within} the next week or two.
From what Mrs. T. ^(who is here now) is reported as saying, I think
the Governor expects to remain in P.R. She
says his health is much improved. I have a
hunch that the President is well informed
about everything in connection with the
situation on the island and will not hesitate
to act if he thinks it necessary to make
a change.

I am reporting that the proposal will
be settled most any day now. A few days ago
I thought Odlin's chances were slim, but later,
last Saturday, the 9th, after a talk with a man
who I think stands well at the White House,
and who knows something of the situation regarding
this appointment, Odlin's stock went up several points.
I have an idea that the President will not allow
himself to be deceived in this matter, and I have
confidence in the judgment of the Army General. Senator Moses
told me that the President indicated to him that
he was going to reappoint Odlin, and I believe he will
do so unless he should become the victim of misinformation.

I hope I can run across Frances. I haven't heard of his
being here. It would be important for him to see the Army Genl.

As I stated above, I think the President is well informed and it
would not surprise me that in the not far off future more
changes than one will be made in the insular offices.

But who's, Lee Nixon

May 21, 1925.

Mr. Lee Nixon,
Rep. Nat. Committee,
Munsey Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Lee:-

The last mail brought me your very interesting letters of the 12th and the 13th instant, covering the situation brought about by the vacancy in the Attorney General's Office.

We have already received cable news of the appointment of Mr. Butte and, of course, we had learned through Who is Who all the particulars about this gentleman. But you will be amused to know that a certain newspaper here has gone so far as to class him as a Klu Klux just because he ran against Ma Ferguson for Governor.

I have written our friend Creager asking him particulars about Mr. Butte, as I suppose that they must be acquainted.

It is useless to tell you that this appointment has raised the ire of the Alliance people. They had pinned their faith in the recommendation made by Davila and Towner in favor of Mike Muñoz, and Davila had answered saying that the President had promised not to appoint anyone for any position without consulting him. Of course, this has been a great disappointment.

The last days of Coats in this Island was a constant debauch. He was drunk day after day and when he went aboard, he had to be taken from the office to an automobile by his assistants and when I called to see him off, he was in a pitiful condition. He was asking for more drinks and it made me sick to see how I had been deceived by this cheap, low, politician. He did not only misbehave, but he was "caught with the goods". I understand that it

Mr. Lee Nixon.

#2.

has been proven beyond the doubt, that he took money from certain corporations for favors which he did as Chairman of the Public Service Commission. I am going to get the inside fact of everything, so as to be able to show them to Senator Wadsworth the first time I go to Washington. I am sure that he will also feel deceived.

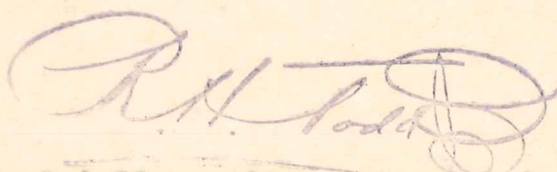
Odlin's friends feel somewhat uneasy on account of the delay in his re-appointment. It is true that the Judge claims that he wrote to the Attorney General requesting that no hasty action be taken in this matter, until the committee of the Bar reports, but this committee seems to be taking lots of time and I understand that they are doing nothing. It is known that both Gay and his Assistant have apologized to Castro, the Interpreter, for what they did by reporting against him to Washington, and this being the only matter at issue, I do not see why the Committee can get ready and report. The apologizing was done in the presence of this committee and by their asking. This would seem to clear the way for Odlin, as it was the only thing known by us to be against him.

Towner has given out a statement that as soon as the Legislature finishes its business next week, that he intends to take a short vacation and go North and will not be back until the 4th of July. It is even claimed that he is recommending Esteves, the Commissioner of the Interior, as his successor at interim, while he is away.

Things continue to work themselves out and running smoothly.

Let me hear from you now and then, and believe me to remain

Sincerely yours,



P. S.

Dr. Robert is back and tells me how charmed and grateful she is to you for all what you did for her. She is enthusiastic about Washington.

Mr. Lee Nixon.

#3.

P. S.

The Times office just called me on the phone to tell me that they have received a cable stating that Wells has been appointed U. S. Judge for Porto Rico. I do not care to make any comment on this subject.