

San Juan, P.R.,

March 17, 1909.

Hon. Frank H. Hitchcock,  
Chairman Rep. Nat. Committee,  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Hitchcock:-

Although your silence on other occasions when I have written you on local political matters, should indicate to me that you do not care to have them brought to your attention, I feel that I must bother you again in this moment of trouble and danger for our little Island.

The local Legislature has adjourned without passing the Appropriation Act. On the 11th instant the regular session was closed, and the Governor was obliged to call an extra session for the 12th, to consider that matter and few others of less importance, and after four days of hard and foolish struggle, the local administration is left without the means of carrying on the government of the Island.

Of course, the local Republican party is not at fault in this, as we have no voice in the Legislature. The Unionist party carried the entire membership of the House of Delegates, with an Independence plank, as you will remember, and with the promise to the people that they would eject the Americans from the Island if they should win a majority in the House. Their first actions in the Legislature were in accord with this promise. They commenced by attacking the Federal Court as an institution and the Judge as an ignoramus, and followed all through the session with attacks on the individual members of the local administration, and culminating in the refusal of voting the deficient appropriation bill and the regular appropriation bill, thereby placing the administration in an awkward and difficult position.

This is not the time of placing the blame on any individual administration, and sore as we may be against Governor Post for deeds of the past, we must

F.H.H. 2.

stand by his side in momentous situation, as the good name and credit of our country is at stake, and it is a matter of principles and not of men.

The House of Delegates decided to send a committee of three of its members to see the President and the influential members of Congress, and protest against what they call the tyranny of the Foraker Act which does not allow them to do as they please in matters of legislation. The committee is going up on this steamer and will be calling on the President at any moment, and for this reason I thought I would address you this letter informing you of this fact.

I am not going to say anything against the members of this committee personally, but I will call your attention to the fact that the man who heads the committee, Mr. Muñoz Rivera, is the leader and idol of the Unionist party, the biggest American hater in the Island, and the man who will never be satisfied with things here as long as he cannot have full control of matters generally, as much as he had when the Americans came in 1898. Just inquire from ex-Governors Charles H. Allen and William H. Hunt, the two first civil governors of Porto Rico, who this man is, and if General Henry was not dead he would also tell you that he tried to make trouble for him in 1898 and 1899 when he was military governor.

Just to show you the spirit with which these men are going up, I will mention the fact that the House of Delegates, on appointing them to go to Washington, decided that if they did not get satisfaction from the authorities in Washington, to have the committee go to South America and have those countries protest against the action (?) of the American Government if Porto Rico.

My humble opinion in this present trouble is to have an amendment to the Foraker Act, along the lines of that which Congress passed lately for Hawaii, to the effect that the local administration be empowered to continue in force the Appropriation Act whenever the Legislature should fail to pass the appropriation bill. This would cure the present evil for the future and it would be well received by the people rather than the radical interpretation of section 36 of the

F.M.H. 3.

Foraker Act to the effect that the Executive Council can go ahead and appropriate money for current expenses without the assistance of the House of Delegates.

Excuse me for taking up your valuable time, but I thought it was my duty to write on this subject as I know that the said committee will be calling on the President and trying to make him believe that the Executive Council has done things which in reality it has not done. There is no blame to lay on the Executive Council, at least in the present occasion. They have behaved well, as good Americans conscious of their high duty.

Without any further, I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

P.S.

You may use this letter as you see fit.