

Washington, D. C.,
December 21, 1921.

Charles Hartzell, Esq.,
Galen Hall,
Atlantic City, N. J.

My dear Hartzell:

I have received your letter of the 19th, and I want to say that I agree with you in your general proposition regarding the result of the interview between the President and Governor Reily. The latter was so ~~much~~ taken up by the generous spirit shown by the President, that he was dismissing entirely from his mind the obligation of placing in the hands of the President counter-affidavits referring to the charges filed by Jones. I spoke with him about this matter, and he told me himself that Senator Spencer had spoken to him also, and he laughed at our proposition, and it was only after I had a talk with General McIntyre, and he insisted that I should make the Governor see this course, that he at last came to understand what was his duty. He called up General McIntyre and the General promised and sent him yesterday a copy of the charges.

The General told me yesterday that he had seen Weeks the night before at a reception, and the Secretary informed him of a long, good talk which he had with Reily Saturday morning, and that he expected that the Governor would take notice of many things which he told him. Weeks told McIntyre that he was going to recommend to the President the appointment of Judge Toro for Chief Justice.

The General also told me that Jones had called early yesterday to find out under what terms was Reily returning to Porto Rico, as he understood that there had been an agreement reached between the Administration and the Unionists whereby the latter would withdraw the charges against the Governor, but that the latter would not return to Porto Rico as Governor. McIntyre told him that he did not know anything of such an agreement; that he had advised both Barcelo and Davila, as old friends, that they should withdraw the charges because there was nothing to them, and it would only be a source of embarrassment to the Administration and would certainly rebound against the Unionist Party; and that the Administration would take care of the future, meaning by that, that they would counsel Reily to be more tactful. McIntyre added that he was certain that Weeks did not make any agreement, and much less the President. He claims that on his advice, Barcelo wrote a letter to the Secretary of War withdrawing

Charles Hartzell, Esq.

the charges. Jones told McIntyre that in view of the circumstances he would insist in pushing his charges.

Reily told me that when he saw the President Monday morning and showed him the Associated Press reports that Barcelo was coming back to Washington to find out under what terms Reily was returning to Porto Rico, that the President told him that he would not see him and would tell Weeks to sit upon him hard if he ever called with any such proposition.

As regards the question of using the endorsement given by the President to Reily, I want to say that I have sent a cable to the Times telling them of this endorsement, and I must state that the cablegram was an exact copy of a rough sketch written out by Reily himself. There were many things said during that conference that I did not have time to write you about and which I will repeat when we meet, as the whole conversation gave the impression to those present that Reily could not expect any better friend than the one he has in the White House. I did not go with Reily to see the President on Monday; but he tells me that the President was even more cordial than on Friday. I will insist on Reily trying to get that letter from the President before he returns to Porto Rico.

The Governor left for Kansas City yesterday, and as the President told him again that he would like him to go back to the Island as soon as possible, he told me that he would try to be in Washington about the third of January, and I am to let him know about the sailings of the steamers in New York. You may reach him at the Baltimore Hotel, Kansas City.

I am leaving this afternoon for New York to spend the holidays, and will write you anything which I may have found out. You have such a confounding handwriting that I don't know if the address which you wrote on your card, 510 Powen Lane, is correct. If not, please let me know at the Patterson, 58 West 47th Street, New York.

Merry Christmas to all! I remain,

Yours friend,

Hon. Jose Tous Soto, Page 3, December 21, 1921.

In my conversation yesterday with McIntyre, he asked me if I knew whether or not Barcelo had returned as Davila told him that he was expecting his friend on Monday. I saw Associated Press report to the effect that Barcelo was coming to Washington from New York to find out under what terms Reily was returning to Porto Rico as Governor, and I am wishing that he should come and try to find out. The President told Reily on Monday that he would not receive him, and would instruct Weeks that if he dared to call on him and inquire under what conditions Reily was returning to Porto Rico, that he sit on him hard.

The Washington Post of Sunday, the 18th, published a Souvenir Edition containing articles and pictures on the Disarmament Conference, as well as of several foreign countries such as Mexico, Korea, the Philippines, and last, but not least, Porto Rico, with the pictures of both Barcelo and Davila. I am mailing copies of this supplement and you can judge for yourself the kind of story that has been published trying to make the people believe that the Unionist Party is the only American Party in Porto Rico, and that the cry of independence was never meant to be a serious one. It also accuses the Republicans of everything bad and finishes by copying some extracts written by Governor Yager about progress in Porto Rico during the last twenty years, and I daresay that this last part is the only truthful one in the whole article. It also has a couple of paragraphs hitting Senator Iglesias, and hitching on him a purported speech in favor of Bolshevik ideas which the Senator claims he has never uttered in his life. Both Iglesias and myself called at the office of the Post to inquire who was responsible for the article, as it bears no signature. We were told by the editor that the edition belonged to the jurisdiction of the Sunday editor, and we went to see this gentleman, who told us that he knew nothing about it, that it was a business proposition, just as any advertisement in the paper, and that the whole matter was brought in by the Business Manager who had collected at so much per page, and he supposed that the said Manager, in case any misunderstanding should arise as to the veracity of a statement published, would require from those publishing it the proof as to their statement. He also told us that if we cared, he would publish an article in his paper, gratis, correcting any mis-statement that might have appeared in the said Souvenir Edition. This subject I am leaving in the hands of Iglesias, and he will attend to both his part and my part. My attention has been called by General McIntyre that I should abstain from having my name appear in any article or cablegram inasmuch as I am a Federal official, and it seems that the Unionists have complained to him about my present political activities and it would not be well for me to have to explain to my Department the reasons for these activities.