

June 13th, 1922.

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

My dear friend:-

After I wrote my last letter, the Associated Press brought cabled news from Porto Rico that the Supreme Court had upheld the Attorney General in both his contentions as to his right to present personally the case before the Grand Jury, and as to the transfer of Arrillaga. This, of course, will complicate matters and has placed the administration in a difficult position. I had a consultation on Saturday last with both the Secretary of War and Judge Towner, in which we discussed this new phase of the situation. It transpired that the Secretary of War had already written the Governor that pending any decision that might be reached by the President, and which would be communicated to him by cable, that he should be prepared to come to Washington with his family, when he should receive such cable. With the decision of the Supreme Court it will now be hard for the President to call Reily, as it would be criticized by the Porto Ricans, according to the Secretary's views. I called their attention to the fact that the District Court was not in session and it would take some little time before it reconvened, as well as the call of the new Grand Jury, and that I thought that the matter could be arranged by calling Washington both the Governor and the Attorney General at the same time to have the matter thrashed out here, with the assurance that the administration would find that it was impossible to send Reily back as Governor. This suggestion was very well received by both the Secretary and Judge Towner and Secretary Weeks said he would think the matter over and bring it to the attention of the President.

It is well to remember that the paramount question here in the minds of both the administration and the republican leaders is to avoid any undue criticism of the administration in this bitter campaign, and unfortunately Reily is becoming one of the issues personally against the President. And naturally the object in view now is to remove him from any more mischief, if possible. I can understand from what some of my friends write me, that the removal of Reily at this time will seem to be a victory for the Unionist party, who have been attack-

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ing him so bitterly, but this is hardly essential up here, and it is impossible to have the Administration take it into account at all.

I received a very interesting letter from my son, telling me of a talk he had with the Governor and it only goes to show once more that the man is utterly unfit to be Governor of Porto Rico. What I can't understand is how he was so well informed as to Travieso sending a cablegram to Mestre, although Mestre himself told my son that he had not received any such cable, but that it was all a put-up job by Cordova Davila, who had taken cold feet at the last moment and wanted him not to act. On the other hand, Bennett has written me that the Governor told him that some one had told him that I have been knocking him to the Secretary of War, and I am aware that when I go back, I am going to have my troubles with the man, but I am prepared for him.

Availing myself of the circumstance that the Secretary of War has gone out of town and will not return until Saturday, I am going to do the same, leaving town this afternoon, but will be back Saturday morning, ready to stay here until the middle of next week, then going to New York to sail on the Ponce on the 24th. I will communicate with you by cable anything which needs attention before I sail, and during these few days I will be away. Nixon will attend to anything which may come up.

With very best regards, I beg to remain,

Sincerely yours,

Hon. Jose Tous Soto.

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Washington, D. C., June 13, 1922

My dear Friend:-

After writing the above, your letter of the 6th instant came to hand, for which I beg to thank you.

It is useless to say that I am in entire accord with your views on the different subjects which you mention in your letter and I want to tell you there is no hope whatever for the appointment or even the consideration of the Colonel's name. In my talk with the Secretary I told him plainly that I did not believe he had sufficient experience in civil matters to tackle a job as Governor.

I agree with you in what you say about Judge Towner, and in all his talks with me he has shown himself the man suitable for the position and very well informed as to the conditions of things and men. This morning I had a talk with him and we reviewed the situation and he claims that the President feels that he is somewhat to blame for the mistakes made by Reily, which he thinks were brought about on account of the Unionists being against Reily for the stand which he took in the matter of independence. As a matter of fact, the President claims that he gave Reily positive instructions to deal sternly and firmly against any such idea of independence, and now the President feels that although Reily is tactless, etc., he finds himself in trouble for carrying out the President's instructions.

There is no doubt that things will square themselves, but I doubt very much whether this can be done in the very near future, after the decision of the Supreme Court, giving the Attorney General the upper hand.

I am very sorry of the accident which happened to your son, and hope that nothing serious will result from same.

Believe me to remain,

Sincerely yours,