

Marzo 9 de 1915.

Estimado Señor:

No vi hasta el lunes por la noche su carta de 6 de marzo, dirigida a mi secretario, con la que se acompañaba una comunicación del Comité Paternal; pero el contenido de la misma me fué comunicado por teléfono el domingo por la mañana por mi secretario Señor Muñoz.

Confirmando la contestación que indiqué al Señor Muñoz comunicase a ese comité, y la cual él comunicó por conducto del Señor Balbás, en el hospital municipal el domingo a las 11 de la mañana, deseo manifestar que yo aseguré a ese comité que si los niños volvieran a la escuela, como prometieron Vds. que volverían el lunes por la mañana, inmediatamente yo cumpliría mi promesa y nombraría una comisión imparcial que investigase por completo el caso del joven Grovas, en la cual investigación el mismo joven estaría representado y tendría una amplia oportunidad de ser oído en justicia, y que el fallo de esta comisión prevalecería en el asunto del joven Grovas, y cualquier acción que hubiese sido tomada por las autoridades escolares sería desestimada, si fuera

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necesario, de acuerdo con el dictamen de la comisión investigadora.

Las autoridades escolares han procedido sencillamente de conformidad con sus reglas acostumbradas, y habían tomado su acuerdo, según estoy informado, antes de que conociesen el resultado de la conferencia celebrada entre el Gobernador y ese comité; pero, por supuesto, todo el mundo sabe que el Gobernador tiene la facultad de dejar sin efecto o anular cualquier acuerdo que dichas autoridades pudieran haber tomado, y que la resolución de éstas podría haber sido desestimada en todos sentidos para ponerla en armonía con el fallo, cualquiera que hubiese sido, de la comisión investigadora.

El secretario me informa que él en persona comunicó por completo esta contestación al Señor Balbás, y supongo que el Señor Balbás la transmitió a ese comité y a la asamblea de padres celebrada el domingo. Me parece, pues, que no hubo razón ninguna para que ese comité supusiese que el Gobernador había faltado o faltaría a su promesa de hacer que el asunto del joven Grovas fuese investigado completamente y resuelto por una comisión imparcial.

Deseo recordar a Vds. que el Gobernador insistió desde el principio hasta el fin de nuestra conferencia, en que sería impropio que él quebrantase la disciplina y reglamento de la escuela interviniendo de algún modo en la cuestión antes de que los niños hubiesen vuelto a sus clases; pero, que si ellos volvían dentro del plazo fijado, él entonces haría que el asunto del joven Grovas fuese investigado y resuelto según lo convenido.

Siento muchísimo que ese comité y la comisión de padres que Vds. representan, hayan supuesto simplemente y sin razón alguna que el Gobernador no cumpliría lo que había prometido y no llevaría a cabo fielmente el fallo de la comisión que él hubiera nombrado, cualquiera que hubiese sido ese fallo.

Muy respetuosamente,

Gobernador.

Señor R. H. Delgado,

San Juan, Puerto Rico.

September 10, 1914.

Dear Sir:

Sometime ago my friend Mr. Vilella, of Laros, asked me to speak to you with reference to the transfer of his son-in-law Miguel Cancio, Supervising Principal of Schools at San Sebastián, and I promised to do so.

In the keeping of my promise you will of course understand I do not wish to interfere in any way with the management of the affairs of your department, but it was represented to me that this gentleman had made an excellent record at San Sebastián, and of course it would be natural for him to prefer to remain in his present position because of the nearness of San Sebastián to Laros where his father-in-law resides. If you can oblige Mr. Vilella by keeping him there without interfering with some other plans that you may have for the betterment of the schools, I would appreciate it upon the old man's account. But, of course, if there are reasons why the transfer should be made which you regard as important, I am quite sure that you will act upon your best judgment in the matter just as I would in your place.

Very respectfully,

Hon. E. M. Bainter,  
Commissioner of Education,  
San Juan, P. R.

Governor.

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C O P Y

March 9, 1915.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter to my secretary of March 6, enclosing a communication from the Comité Paternal, was not seen by me until Monday evening, but its contents were communicated to me over the telephone Sunday morning by my secretary Mr. Muñoz.

In confirmation of the answer which I instructed Mr. Muñoz to communicate to your committee, and which he did communicate through Mr. Balbás at the municipal hospital on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, I desire to state that I assured your committee that if the children returned to school, as you promised they would on Monday morning, I would immediately fulfill my promise and appoint an impartial committee to thoroughly investigate the case of the young man Grovas, at which investigation the young man himself would be represented and have a full and fair hearing, and that the decision of this committee would control the whole matter of young Grovas, and whatever action had been taken by the school authorities would be overruled, if necessary, in accordance with the decisions of this committee of investigation.

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The school authorities have acted simply in accordance with their customary regulations, and their action had been taken, I am informed, before they had learned the result of the conference between the Governor and your committee; but, of course, everybody knows that the Governor has the power to overrule or annul any action that they may have taken and that their action could have been overruled in every respect so as to make it accord with the decision, whatever it might be, of the committee of investigation.

My secretary informs me that he did personally deliver this communication fully to Mr. Balbás, and I suppose Mr. Balbás delivered it to your committee and to the meeting of the parents held on Sunday. So it seems to me there was no reason whatever for your committee to assume that the Governor had broken or would fail to carry out his promise to have the case of young Grovas thoroughly investigated and decided by an impartial committee.

I desire to recall to your mind that the Governor insisted from the beginning to the end of our conference that it would be improper for him to break down the rules and discipline of the school by taking any hand in the matter until the children had returned



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C O P Y

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to their classes, but if they did return, within the time set, he would then have the case of young Groves investigated and settled as agreed upon.

I regret very much that your committee and the organization of parents which you represent, simply assumed without any reason that the Governor would not do what he had promised and carry out faithfully the decision of the committee which he would appoint, whatever that decision might have been.

Very respectfully,

(Signed)

ARTHUR YAGER

Governor.

Mr. R. H. Delgado,

San Juan, Porto Rico.

Marzo 9 de 1915.

Estimado Señor:

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necesario, de acuerdo con el dictamen de la comisión investigadora.

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(9 Mar 15)

-3-

Deseo recordar a Vds. que el Gobernador insistió desde el principio hasta el fin de nuestra conferencia, en que sería impropio que él quebrantase la disciplina y reglamento de la escuela interviniendo de algún modo en la cuestión antes de que los niños hubiesen vuelto a sus clases; pero, que si ellos volvían dentro del plazo fijado, él entonces haría que el asunto del joven Grovas fuese investigado y resuelto según lo convenido.

Siento muchísimo que ese comité y la comisión de padres que Vds. representan, hayan supuesto simplemente y sin razón alguna que el Gobernador no cumpliría lo que había prometido y no llevaría a cabo fielmente el fallo de la comisión que él hubiera nombrado, cualquiera que hubiese sido ese fallo.

Muy respetuosamente,

Gobernador.

Señor R. H. Delgado,

San Juan, Puerto Rico.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
PORTO RICO

March 9, 1915.

Dear Sir:-

*to my secretary*  
Your letter of March 8, enclosing a communication from the Comité Paternal, was not seen by me until Monday evening, but its contents were communicated to me over the telephone Sunday morning by my secretary Mr. Muñoz ~~Munoz~~.

In confirmation of the answer which I instructed Mr. Muñoz to communicate to your committee, and which he did communicate through Mr. Balbás at the municipal hospital on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, I desire to state that I assured your committee that if the children returned to school, as you promised they would on Monday morning, I would immediately fulfill my promise and appoint an impartial committee to thoroughly investigate the case of the young man Grovas, at which investigation the young man himself would be represented and have a full and fair hearing, and that the decision of this committee would control the whole matter of Mr. Grovas, and whatever action had been taken by the school authorities would be overruled, if necessary, in accordance with the decisions of this committee of investigation.

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The school authorities have<sup>102</sup> acted simply in accordance with their ~~usual routine~~<sup>customary</sup> regulations, and their action had been taken, I am informed, before they had learned the result of the conference between the Governor and your committee; but, of course, everybody knows that the Governor has the power to overrule or annul any action that they may have taken and that their action ~~would be~~<sup>could have been</sup> overruled in every respect so as to make it accord with the decision, whatever it might be, of the committee of investigation.

My secretary <sup>personally</sup> informs me that he did <sup>1</sup> deliver this communication fully to Mr. Balbás, and I suppose Mr. Balbás delivered it to your committee and to the meeting of the parents held on Sunday. So it seems to me there was no reason whatever for your committee to assume that the Governor had broken or would break his promise to have the case of Mr. Grovas thoroughly investigated and decided by an impartial committee.

I desire to recall to your mind that the Governor insisted from the beginning to the end of our conference ~~that the students must return to school first~~<sup>and</sup> ~~within the time limit set by the school authorities, which expired on Monday March 8, and~~

(9 Mar 15)

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~~that if they did so return, he would appoint the~~  
~~committee to determine the case of Mr. Grovas.~~  
*Then*

~~I pointed out very clearly that it would~~  
be improper for ~~me~~ *me* to break down the discipline of  
the school by taking any hand in the matter until  
the children had returned to their classes, but if  
they did return, within the time set, ~~it would then~~  
~~do what I promised in the one case above mentioned.~~  
*have the case of Mary Theresa investigated & settled*  
*as agreed upon*

I regret very much that your committee  
and the organization of parents which you represent,  
simply assumed without any reason that the Governor  
would not do what he had promised and carry out  
faithfully the decision of the committee which he  
would appoint, whatever that decision might have  
been.

Very respectfully,

Governor.

Mr. R. H. Delgado,

San Juan, Porto Rico.

March 9, 1915.

Dear Sir:-

*To my Secretary*  
Your letter of March 6, enclosing a communication from the Comité Paternal, was not seen by me until Monday evening, but its contents were communicated to me over the telephone Sunday morning by my secretary Mr. Nuñez Morales.

In confirmation of the answer which I instructed Mr. Nuñez to communicate to your committee, and which he did communicate through Mr. Balbás at the municipal hospital on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, I desire to state that I assured your committee that if the children returned to school, as you promised they would on Monday morning, I would immediately fulfill my promise and appoint an impartial committee to thoroughly investigate the case of the young man Grovas, at which investigation the young man himself would be represented and have a full and fair hearing, and that the decision of this committee would control the whole matter of Mr. Grovas, and whatever action had been taken by the school authorities would be overruled, if necessary, in accordance with the decisions of this committee of investigation.

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(9 Mar 15)

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The school authorities <sup>has</sup> ~~has~~ voted simply in accordance with their <sup>customary</sup> ~~usual~~ ~~routing~~ regulations, and their action had been taken, I am informed, before they had learned the result of the conference between the Governor and your committee; but, of course, everybody knows that the Governor has the power to overrule or annul any action that they may have taken and that their action <sup>could have been</sup> ~~would be~~ overruled in every respect so as to make it accord with the decision, whatever it might be, of the committee of investigation.

My secretary informs me that he did <sup>personally</sup> deliver this communication fully to Mr. Balbás, and I suppose Mr. Balbás delivered it to your committee and to the meeting of the parents held on Sunday. So it seems to me there was no reason whatever for your committee to assume that the Governor had broken or would <sup>fail to carry out</sup> ~~break~~ his promise to have the case of Mr. Groves thoroughly investigated and decided by an impartial committee.

I desire to recall to your mind that the Governor insisted from the beginning to the end of our conference that ~~the students must return to school first~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~within the time limit set by the school authorities, which expired on Monday March 8, and~~

(9 Nov 15)

-3-

~~that if they did so return, he would~~<sup>then</sup>~~appoint the~~  
~~committee to determine the case of Mr. Groves.~~

~~I pointed out very clearly that it would~~  
be improper for ~~me~~<sup>him</sup> to break down the ~~discipline~~<sup>rules and</sup> of  
the school by taking any hand in the matter until  
the children had returned to their classes, but if  
they did return, within the time set, ~~I~~<sup>he</sup> would then  
~~have the case of Mr. Groves investigated and settled~~  
~~as promised in the one case above mentioned.~~  
<sup>as graduation</sup>

I regret very much that your committee  
and the organization of parents which you represent,  
simply assumed without any reason that the Governor  
would not do what he had promised and carry out  
faithfully the decision of the committee which he  
would appoint, whatever that decision might have  
been.

Very respectfully,

Governor.

Mr. B. H. Delgado,

San Juan, Porto Rico.

July 7, 1915.

The Acting Commissioner of Education,  
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Sir:-

I am sending to you herewith a letter from Miss Clara Belle Walton, of Lexington, Kentucky, which explains itself.

I have written Miss Walton acknowledging the receipt of her letter and explaining the situation as to teachers in Porto Rico at this date.

A glance through these papers will show that the young lady is admirably prepared for certain sorts of teaching, and as I know her to be of excellent family and rearing I think it would be well to keep in touch with her in case of a vacancy in your force of American teachers.

Yours respectfully.

Governor.

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*U*  
*For Governor's file*

(CONFIDENTIAL)

San Juan, October 8th, 1915.

From        The Acting Chief of the  
                                 Detective Bureau,

To            The Governor of Porto Rico.

Subject:- Informs that for some months past certain representatives of different political parties in Porto Rico have, by coercion, extortion or plain threats, compelled local teachers in the Department of Education, not only to buy their positions at the outset, but to agree to contribute a certain sum monthly during the term to the political parties.

-----  
1st ENDORSEMENT.  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF PORTO RICO.  
San Juan, October 19th, 1915.

Respectfully referred to the Commissioner of Education, requesting his opinion as to whether or not he deems advisable to push this matter.

*Monte Francis*  
-----  
Acting Governor.

2nd endorsement.  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION  
San Juan, November 13, 1915.

Respectfully returned to the Governor of Porto Rico with the opinion that the Commissioner of Education not only deems it advisable to push this matter, but considers that the administration can not well maintain its self-respect and let this thing continue.

*J. J. Miller*  
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Commissioner of Education.

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GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO  
INSULAR POLICE

10/9

DETECTIVE BUREAU

San Juan, Porto Rico,  
October 8, 1915.



The Honorable,

The Governor of Porto Rico,

San Juan, Porto Rico.

S i r:-

I have the honor to report that for some months past, and probably for a much longer period, certain representatives of different political parties in Porto Rico have, by coercion, extortion or plain threats, compelled local teachers in the Department of Education, not only to buy their positions at the outset, but to agree to contribute a certain sum monthly during the term to this or that political party.

Although I am reliably informed that this sort of petty grafting on defenseless teachers has gone on undisturbed for years, I nevertheless consider it my duty, now at the beginning of this school term, to place the facts before you in order that some action may be taken to discourage or stamp out the shameful and illegal practice.

The case in a nutshell amounts to this: I have confidentially felt out the situation through the medium of unsuspected agents in different parts of the island and find everywhere two outstanding facts. No successful case can be had against those grafting off the school teachers unless the victims, or at least a sufficient number of them, go into court and testify. If they do this it goes without saying that they lose their positions. Now what the teachers want is assurance that if they go to court and tell the truth about this graft they will not lose their jobs.

The most absolute secrecy in this matter is indispensable to a satisfactory conclusion. Apart from the verbal testimony of the teachers there is very little evidence as it is, and should the grafters as much as suspect that an investigation was afoot that little evidence would be destroyed and all sorts of "ranchos" instituted.

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Governor of Porto Rico--2.

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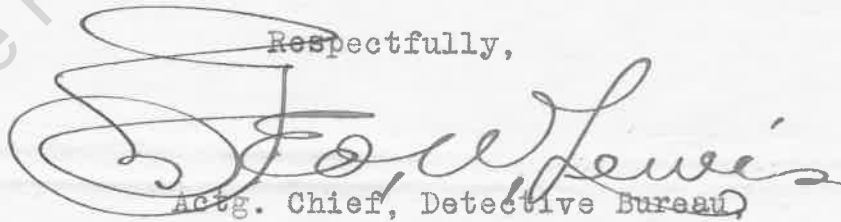
I am confident that if I can convince these poor, persecuted young men and girls that they will have nothing to fear if they tell the whole truth in this disgraceful matter, they will then make affidavits that will show up the whole pernicious system and lodge the offenders where they belong.

I would suggest that, in case you look with favor upon my proposition, the Attorney General be asked for such legal advice as you may deem requisite in respect to the crime of extortion and similar violations of law, committed by public officials and private persons.

My plan in this case is to make all necessary investigation and all other arrangements in the different towns of the island simultaneously, so that all arrests may be made on a specified date and at exactly the same hour. This would forestall such communication from one point to another as might result in the destruction of valuable evidence and attempts, more or less successful, to bribe witnesses.

Any other information which you may require incident to continued investigation will be furnished promptly at your pleasure.

Respectfully,

  
Actg. Chief, Detective Bureau,  
Insular Police.

gwl



March 28, 1916.

My dear Mr. Miller:

The bearer of this letter is Mr. Ulpiano B. Sencial, a Venezuelan who is a lecturer and writer upon horticultural and agricultural subjects. He is very anxious for an opportunity to have a conference with the students of the University upon these subjects, and if you could arrange through Mr. Fleagle for some work of this kind at the University in the next few days, I would be glad to have you do so.

The recommendations of Mr. Sencial as well as some publications which he has prepared indicate that he is a competent man along these lines.

Yours very truly,

Governor.

Honorable Paul G. Miller,  
Commissioner of Education,  
San Juan, Porto Rico.

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San Juan, Porto Rico.  
January 21, 1921.

Mr. Paul G. Miller,  
Commissioner of Education,  
San Juan, Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Miller:

The enclosed letter from Lieutenant H. B. Keller, Culver Indiana explains itself. As you well know Culver is a first rate military school, and on the face of the letter it would appear likely that Lt. Keller would prove a good acquisition for your supervisory department or office staff or teacher. And I am sending it to you promptly for such consideration as you may think proper.

Very sincerely yours,

AY/DLY.

CULVER MILITARY ACADEMY  
Culver, Indiana  
(Lake Maxinkuckee)

The Honorable Arthur Yager,  
Executive Mansion,  
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Dear Sir:

Through a friend and fellow instructor here, Mr. Leland B. Morgan, who is also Registrar of Chautauqua Summer schools, I have received the suggestion from your daughter, Miss Elizabeth, that I write directly to you concerning the possibility of enlisting your cooperation in securing a position in Porto Rico for a year beginning August 25th or later, 1921.

At present I am an instructor in Spanish in Culver Military Academy. I desire to spend the next school year in Porto Rico in order to further my knowledge of that language. To accomplish this I must find employment for the whole period.

Maybe I take this opportunity of requesting your assistance in securing a desirable position, preferably in the government service, or in the supervisory or administrative department of the schools.

I am a graduate of the Pennsylvania State College and have had four years experience as a teacher. I could, however, undertake other work suitable to my scholastic qualifications.

Assuring you of my highest appreciation <sup>of</sup> anything you might do or suggest, I am

Very truly yours,

(Signed) H.B.Keller,

Lieut.

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March 19, 1921.

The Honorable Paul G. Miller,  
Commissioner of Education,  
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a letter from my friend Dr. Glenville Terrell of the University of Kentucky, which explains itself. I do not know either of the young ladies mentioned by him who desire to teach in the schools of Porto Rico next year; but Dr. Terrell is a careful and straight forward writer of letters of recommendation and I assure you that you may accept all his statements and recommendations at their face value.

I am sending you the letter, therefore, for such action as you may deem proper.

Very respectfully,

Governor.

AY/DLY.

May 17, 1921.

The Honorable Paul G. Miller  
Commissioner of Education,  
San Juan, Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Miller:

I am enclosing to you a rather personal and private letter from my cousin, Mr. Joe H. Eaton, of Greeley Colorado because of its recommendation of a teacher who wishes to come to Porto Rico from the State Teachers College located at Greeley. The name of the teacher was not given, but an application has been made for the position. Mrs. Eaton is a very intelligent and well educated lady and Dr. Crabbe, President of the Teachers College, is a splendid man and a fine educator whom I have well. I think you could accept any teacher whom he would recommend.

I am very sorry the name of the applicant was not given, but you may be able to identify the person from the recommendations. I commend this teacher to you for your most favorable consideration and for a good position and good assignment.

Very sincerely,

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
PORTO RICO

*Recibido 4.30 P.M.*

*R. H. Delgado*

Señor R. H. Delgado.

San Juan,

Puerto Rico.

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The Arthur Yager Papers (Mss. A Y13), Folder 17,  
Commissioner of Education, P.R.,  
Correspondence, 10 September 1914-17 May  
1921 includes two issues of the *Heraldo Espanol*,  
numbers 55 and 56, dated 8 and 9 March 1915.

These papers have been imaged separately.