

Mss.

A Domenech, Manuel V.

Y13 Correspondence, 18 Nov. 1913-

25 26 Jan. 1917.

The Filson Historical Society

R.

Interstate Commerce Commission

Washington

RTE-HCF

CHAMBERS OF
JAMES S. HARLAN
COMMISSIONER

November 18, 1913.

Hon. Manuel V. Domenech,

Ponce,

Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Domenech:

I have just received your note of the 10th, with the enclosure. It is my rule not to address the President in behalf of my friends so long as I am myself in public office. Nevertheless I have violated it in one or two cases relating to matters in Porto Rico, and I shall take the greatest pleasure in violating it in your case. During the day I shall write to the President in your behalf. In the meantime, as you must know, I wish you success in your ambition to serve the island in that way.

Sincerely yours,



Commissioner.

Encl.

Mr. Harlan was the Attorney General of Porto Rico from 1901 to 1904 and is now a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission

86XII

Substitute Commissioner

lieve that if appointed to the office of Commissioner of the Interior he will perform his duties with entire credit to your administration and to himself.

November the nineteenth
nineteen thirteen

Dear Mr. President: Faithfully yours,

I have just learned that Manuel V. Domenech of Ponce, Porto Rico, has been suggested for appointment as Commissioner of the Interior in that island.

While Attorney General of the island, shortly after the Spanish war, I came to know Mr. Domenech quite well. He is a native of Porto Rico but was educated in this country as a civil engineer. I understand in fact that he became an American citizen eight or ten years before the island ceased to be a Spanish possession. I refer to these matters because they explain why in a peculiar and special sense he is familiar with our customs and laws and has always been in sympathy with the efforts of the insular authorities to establish our American system of government in the island. During my two years of service there he was one of our most loyal and consistent supporters. He is a man of broad and liberal views, of good education, wide information and of good personal address and correct habits. I think I but voice the feeling of all my colleagues in service in the island at the time in saying that he had our full confidence and respect.

In the intervening years since my service in the island I have not been able closely to follow the course of life of Mr. Domenech, but I do not hesitate to think and be-

86 x 11

(192613)

Interstate Commerce Commission

lieve that if appointed to the office of Commissioner of the Interior he will perform his duties with entire credit to your administration and to himself. November 18, 1913.

Faithfully yours,

Hon. Manuel V. Domenech James S. Harlan.

To the President.

Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Domenech:

I have just received your note of the 10th, with the enclosure. It is my rule not to address the President in behalf of my friends so long as I am myself in public office. Nevertheless I have violated it in one or two cases relating to matters in Porto Rico, and I shall take the greatest pleasure in violating it in your case. During the day I shall write to the President in your behalf. In the meantime, as you must know, I wish you success in your ambition to serve the island in that way.

Sincerely yours,

James S. Harlan
Commissioner.

End

Mr. Harlan was the Attorney General of Porto Rico from 1901 to 1904 and is now a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The Filson Historical Society

11 x 9 1/2

S. FERRER & CO.,

EXPORT AND IMPORT
8-10 BRIDGE STREET
NEW YORK
INCORPORATED 1909

TELEPHONE "604 BROAD"

CABLE ADDRESS:
"FERRERSAL"
CODES USED
LIEBER'S
A. B. C. 5TH EDITION
ROBINSON'S

November 18th, 1913.

SF/C

Hon. The Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

Sir-

We are advised that Mr. Manuel V. Domenech, a Civil Engineer, graduate of Lehigh University and a Porto-Rican now residing at Ponce, P. R., has made application for appointment to the Commissionership of the Interior of Porto-Rico.

It is the purpose of this letter to convey to you our ardent hope as merchants trading largely with that Island, that Mr. Domenech may be honored with the nomination to be soon made by the President. Mr. Domenech, who is a naturalized citizen of the United States and has occupied legislative and executive positions in the government of Porto-Rico, is well qualified by training, education and many years' experience in his profession to fill the post capably. He is very well known to us and we cannot extoll too highly his integrity of character and his unwavering devotion to duty.

Of late, the President, by his appointments to the Philippine Commission has rekindled the hope in all liberty loving people, that this government will grant to Porto-Rico a greater measure of self-government; and we feel that the candidacy of Mr. Domenech affords a great opportunity to show the people of the Island the more liberal attitude of this government toward them.

Yours respectfully,

11x98

S. Ferrer & Co. are prominent American merchants in N.Y. City

My dear Mauda;

Here with copies of
letter mailed to President today.
I am leaving for Pacific coast
tonight but will return in 10 days
and will write Huxston and some
of members of Congress that I know

Yours truly,
Fred

Frederick L. Conwell,
Nov. 20, 1917.

November 20, 1915

The President,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Manuel V. Domenech, of Ponce, Porto Rico, informs me that he has filed an application with you to be appointed Commissioner of the Interior of Porto Rico.

I have known Mr. Domenech since the latter part of 1899, and served with him four years in the Lower Branch of the Legislative Assembly of Porto Rico. He is a native of Porto Rico, educated in the common schools and Lehigh University in the United States. Mr. Domenech is a civil engineer of undoubted ability and broad experience, and has successfully handled some of the most difficult engineering propositions in the West Indies Islands. He has devoted a substantial part of his time during the last fourteen years to public affairs in Porto Rico, for which he has never received any financial equivalent, that is to say, he unselfishly devoted his time and energy in aiding the government in working out the many problems that arose through change of sovereignty. The appointment of Mr. Domenech as Commissioner of Interior would give the native members a majority in the Executive Council of Porto Rico, but if you appoint Mr. Domenech, you will place that pivotal authority in the hands of a man of deep learning, good judgment, broad experience, profound love, and respect for the form of government created

(20 Nov. 13)

by our forefathers and one who will unselfishly devote his whole time and energy to his executive and legislative duties.

Very respectfully,

Fredrick L. Cornell

Mr. Cornell is a prominent Attorney of
St. Louis, Mo. and is now practicing there.
He lived in Out Rock ten years and was
a member of the Legislature -

The Filson Historical Society

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November 24, 1913.

Mr. Manuel V. Domenech,
Ponce, P. R.

My dear Mr. Domenech:-

I have written the President.

Of course, I do not know his intentions concerning Porto Rico, but I took occasion to tell him of your intimate knowledge of the work when I was in the Island and of your ability to perform public service in a capable way.

With all good wishes to you, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

M. G. Brumbaugh

Doctor Brumbaugh was the first Commissioner of Education of Porto Rico and is now candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania

2229 "A" St., San Diego, Calif.

Nov. 25th, 1913.

Re-Appointment of Commission of Interior for
Perte Rice.

The Honorable the President of the U. S. A.,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Having just completed a residence in Perte Rice of eleven years, during which I was Cashier of two of the largest concerns in the Island I feel competent to speak with full knowledge of the requirements necessary to a successful occupancy of the above mentioned position.

I therefore take the liberty of writing you a few lines of endorsement of the application for same of Manuel V. Demenech, E. E. I have had many business dealings with him and found him the most American of any native of Perte Rice. His name is synonymous with probity, and his reputation for business acumen and capability stands A 1 both with Americans and Perte Ricans. He is a gentleman and a scholar, and of all the Perte Ricans that I have met with he is in my estimation by far the most suitable person to fill the office in question. He knows the Island thoroughly and yet, while dearly loving his native country he comes nearer to seeing things through American eyes than any other native. For solid integrity, popularity with all classes and thorough capability, there is no one like him in all Perte Rice. He is married to an accomplished American lady and that is not the least of his assets.

11792

As one of your ardent admirers I conclude by wishing you success in all your undertakings and beg to remain,

Yours respectfully,

Charles Lemire

Mr. Lemire was Captain of
Agua Central in P.R. for
many years.

The Filson Historical Society

UNITED STATES COMMERCE COURT
WASHINGTON

November 19, 1913.

Mr. Manuel V. Domenech,
Ponce, Porto Rico.

My dear Domenech:

It will give me genuine pleasure to endorse you for the position of Commissioner of Interior of the Island. I am sure that you are not only entirely qualified, but that your appointment would be gratifying to the people of the Island and result in advantage to the public service. I am going over to the War Department in the next day or so and will have a personal talk with Secretary Garrison.

With very kind regards and wishing you success,
I am

Very sincerely yours,

William H Hunt

*Judge Hunt was the second Civil
Governor of Porto Rico from 1901 to 1904
and is now a Justice of the Commerce Court*

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON. NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS

Jan. 30. '13

Dear Mr. Townsend:-

Your letter addressed to me at Washington
was, after some delay, forwarded to me here. I
shall be only too glad to write to President Wilson
in your behalf and you have my best wishes
for success. I can write in perfect sin-
cerity for I believe you well qualified to
fill the position.

Yours cordially,

W. F. Willoughby

Nov. 30, 1913.

The President of the United States,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:-

Mr. Manuel V. Domenech writes me that he desires to have his name considered by you for appointment as Commissioner of the Interior for Porto Rico, and asks me to write to you on his behalf.

I take great pleasure in doing so. I was intimately acquainted and associated with Mr. Domenech for eight years while I was in Porto Rico as Treasurer and later Secretary of the Island. During most of that time Mr. Domenech was a member of the lower house or engaged in work which brought us into close relations. He is a highly educated man and one of pronounced natural abilities. So far as I am aware there has never been the slightest question regarding his thorough honesty, integrity, and private character generally. I think that I can say that I know of no Porto Rican who I think would be likely to give a better administration of the office of Commissioner of the Interior or more valuable services as a member of the Executive Council

Very respectfully,

The original has been sent direct to the President.

W. F. W.

Mr. Willoughby was Treasurer of Porto Rico, later Secretary
and Acting Governor and is now professor of
Economics at Princeton

26X11

Copy

while a native of Porto Rico, is an American citizen by
naturalization and married an American woman from Dec. 9, 5.

To His Excellency,
Woodrow Wilson,
President of the United States.

My dear Mr. President:

I beg to commend to your favorable attention the appli-
cation of Mr. Mameel V. Domenech, a Civil Engineer, of Ponce,
Porto Rico, for the position of Commissioner of the Interior,
of Porto Rico. Mr. Domenech wrote me under date of November
12th enclosing a copy of his application dated November 5th
addressed to you and requesting me to write you a letter of
indorsement.

Mr. Domenech is a graduate of the School of Civil En-
gineering of this University, in the class of '88, and he
is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.
While all that I knew personally of Mr. Domenech was favorable
as to his character and ability, I felt that I would prefer
to delay writing you in the matter until I could communicate
with someone intimately associated with him as a classmate
and who had kept personal track of his career. I have done
this and am now writing you to indorse him strongly as a man
of excellent character, good reputation as an engineer, and
as his application to you shows, of great and varied experience
in public work in Porto Rico. The fact that Mr. Domenech,

9611

Copy

while a native of Porto Rico, is an American citizen by naturalization and married an American woman from Richmond, Virginia, speaks also in his favor.

It seems to me that he would be an admirable appointee and I beg to file with you this indorsement of his application.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

President of Lehigh University.

The Filson Historical Society

Mr. Deakin is a graduate of the School of Civil Engineering of this University, and was one of the first to receive a degree in this branch of the study. While all the details of Mr. Deakin's career are not known to me, I feel that I could prefer to delay writing you in the matter until I could communicate with Mr. Deakin personally, and also until I had had a personal talk with him. I have seen this and so am writing you to indicate his strength of character and his reputation as an engineer, and as his application to you shows, of great and varied experience in his work in Porto Rico. The fact that Mr. Deakin

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY
SOUTH BETHLEHEM, PA.
PRESIDENT'S ROOM

December 9, 1913.

Mr. Manuel V. Domenech,
P. O. Box 613,
Ponce, Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Domenech:

I have taken the first opportunity to write
President Wilson on your behalf as requested by
your letter of the 12th and enclose copy of my
communication to him.

Sincerely yours,



President.

December 16th, 3

Re-Appointment of Commission of Interior
for Porto Rico.

The Honorable the President of the U.S.A.,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Having lived in Porto Rico six years and held the position of General Manager of one of the largest sugar estates on the Island, and having known Mr. Manuel V. Domenech, personally, during those years, I take the liberty of writing you these few lines of endorsement of his application for "Minister of Interior."

Mr. Domenech is a native of Porto Rico, a graduate (as I recall) of Cornell University, is a first class civil engineer and a good business man. Of all my acquaintance among Porto Ricans, Mr. Domenech outclasses them all in the American idea of administration for the Island and I fully believe if you honor him with the appointment he will exercise his authority with great credibility to himself and to your administration.

Very respectfully,

W. J. Lammie

*Mr. Lammie was General Manager
of Central America for many years.*

11x78

LUKE L. A. TENN., CHAIRMAN.
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United States Senate,
COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY.

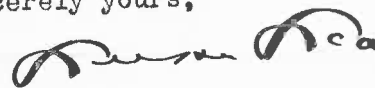
December 22nd, 1913.

Dear Lee:

I have your letter of December 19th, and took pleasure in writing the President a letter of endorsement of your friend and class mate, Mr. Manuel V. Domenech, of Ponce, Porto Rico, for the position of Commissioner of the Interior for Porto Rico.

With the season's best wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,



Hon. Lee Brock,
Nashville, Tenn.

R-C.

The Filson Historical Society

86x11

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

LEE BROCK
REFEREE IN BANKRUPTCY
607 STAHLMAN BUILDING
NASHVILLE, TENN.

December 19, 1913.

Manuel V. Domenech, Esq.,

Ponce, P. R.

Dear Manuel:-

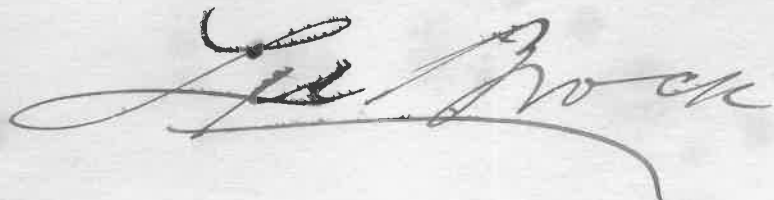
I herewith enclose letter I have this day written to Senator Lea. I shall also see him next week during the Holidays in person, and impress upon him my desire that he aid you in securing the appointment you seek.

I doubt very much whether the appointment will be made earlier than a month from now, on account of the fact that the President intends to take a vacation of three weeks, beginning just before Christmas.

I wish you a Merry Christmas, and sincerely hope the New Year will bring the much desired appointment.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,



86x11

December 19, 1913.

Hon. Luke Lea,
U. S. Senator,
Washington, D. C.

My dear ~~Luke~~ Luke:-

I have an old school mate, Manuel V. Domenech, who is a Civil Engineer living at Ponce, P. R., who is an applicant for Commissioner of the Interior of Porto Rico.

I am enclosing herewith a couple of letters which have been written on behalf of Mr. Domenech. He is a Native of the Island of Porto Rico, a man of fine business qualifications and integrity. I can commend him in the warmest terms, personally, because I know his sterling worth. The Government could bring into its service no more faithful or intelligent official than Mr. Domenech. You would put me under renewed obligations if you would upon these endorsements, give him your recommendation for the appointment.

The present Governor of New Jersey, the Hon. Jas. F. Fielder is also a life long friend of Mr. Domenech's, and I am sure would join me in every word I have herein written, in behalf of this applicant. I have not access to the files in Washington, but feel absolutely confident you will find a warm letter of commendation from Governor Fielder urging the President to appoint Mr. Domenech.

Trusting you can see your way clear to help us out in this matter, and that you will be home and have a happy Christmas, I am,

Sincerely yours,

— Lee Powell —

86 X 11

Washington, D.C., Jan. 22, 1914.

Brig. General Frank M. Dulyer, U.S. A.,
Chief of Bureau of Insular Affairs,
War Department, Washington, D.C.

My dear General:

I understand Mr. Manuel Y. Domenech, Civil Engineer, of Ponce, Porto Rico, is an applicant for the position of Commissioner of the Interior of Porto Rico. Mr. Domenech is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, was educated in the United States and is fully qualified for the position which he seeks.

I was the Commandant of the Naval Station at San Juan, Porto Rico, from October, 1902, to July, 1906, and Mr. Domenech was well known as a gentleman of fine character, an ardent admirer and supporter of American rule.

I would add that his wife is a most estimable lady from Richmond, Va. I also have the privilege of knowing Mr. Domenech and it gives me the greatest pleasure to recommend him to you for the position and trust you may recommend his appointment.

I am,

Very truly yours,

Andrew Doolah

Rear Admiral U.S.N., Retired.

Admiral Doolah retired
from Naval Commission
in P.R. several years.

July, 26, 1914.

Hon. Arthur Yager.

Governor San Juan P. R.

Dear Governor Yager:

I beg leave to acknowledge receipt of your favor of yesterday. I will say in reply, that in accordance with your desires I shall have the honor of seeing you next Tuesday morning, that is, the day after tomorrow.

In reference to the letters promised by me, I will say that I sent them to you by registered letter on the 20th instant, and I trust the package has reached you by this time.

Yours respectfully
Manuel V. Domenech

86x11

MANUEL V. DOMENECH.

CIVIL ENGINEER.

MEMBER AM. SOC. C. E.

PONCE, P. R.

TELEPHONE 142.

P. O. BOX 613.

July 20, 1914.

Hon. Arthur Jager,
Governor.

San Juan P. R.

Dear Governor Jager:

I take the liberty of enclosing copies of some of the letters written the Secretary of War in my behalf, by persons who know me personally and in a business way. I have made a note in each case of who the writer is, I have others which are very similar to the ones enclosed.

I earnestly hope that you may find time to read some or all of them.

Yours very respectfully,
Manuel V. Domenech.

11893



Adjuntas, P.R. July 10, 1914

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, P.R.

Sir:

It has come to my knowledge that the name of Mr. Manuel V. Domenech, of Ponce, has been suggested to you in connection with your recommendation to the President of the person, from this Island, to be appointed as Commissioner of the Interior.

I wish to join in the movement in favor of the appointment of Mr. Domenech for said position. He is a Portorican of a most solid and up right character, a man of high ideals and immaculated honesty, a civil engineer of large experience and recognized ability. He would be a most desirable candidate. Although his political aspirations in regard to the future of this Island are diametrically the contrary of my own ideals, as he stands for Americanization and Statehood, and I stand for independence, yet, I take a great pleasure, and perform an act of justice in endorsing Mr. Domenech as a most excellent and desirable candidate.

Hoping that he may be appointed, I am

Very respectfully yours,

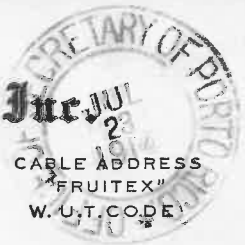
Manuel Rodriguez Serra



Porto Rico Fruit Exchange Inc.

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO

202 FRANKLIN STREET
N.Y. CITY



SAN JUAN

July 22/14

The Hon. Arthur Yager -
Governor of Porto Rico:

My dear Sir:

It came to my attention that the Hon. Manuel V. Domenech of Ponce is being considered in connection with the Department of the Interior. My oldest son spent a year in Ponce as teacher in their excellent high school and became intimately acquainted with Mr. Domenech. He referred to him repeatedly as the "best American" he had met on the Island.

I venture this word of indirect commendation and am sure you will take it at its face value. With great respect yours,
Newton L. Reed.

LAW AND NOTARIAL OFFICE.
64 Mendez Vigo St.

BENJAMIN J. HORTON
ABOGADO-NOTARIO.
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW,
AND
NOTARY PUBLIC.



Mayaguez, Pto-Rico, July 25 1914

To the Honorable Arthur Yager
Governor of Porto Rico

San Juan P.R.

Dear Sir:

I am informed that Mr. Manuel V. Domenech of Ponce is an applicant for the position of Commissioner of Interior, and I take this occasion to strongly urge his appointment to this position.

I have the good fortune to have been intimately acquainted with Mr. Domenech since the year 1901.

Mr. Domenech as a member of the two first legislatures after civil government was established, was perhaps more largely influential than any other one man in either branch of the legislature in securing the adoption of our present system of laws; was always an advocate of whatever was truly American, and fearless in his opposition to ill considered and reckless legislation.

In the summer of 1904 Mr. Domenech was appointed to fill an unexpired term as Alcalde of Ponce, and the first act of his administration ^{was} a large reduction in the salary and expense budget of the municipality, which included a considerable reduction of his own salary as Alcalde. While this procedure did not tend to make him particularly popular with certain elements, it enabled him to accomplish more in the line of public improvement within his short term than has been accomplished in much longer periods before, and since his administration.

Mr. Domenech, on account of his ability and standing in his profession, his liberal education and training, and his natural aptitude and fairness in public affairs, is particularly well qualified to fill this position, and I believe his appointment would give general satisfaction to those Americans and Porto Ricans on the island, who have no axe to grind and desire an efficient and business-like administration of the office.

Very respectfully yours,

Benjamin J. Horton

11x98

May 1, 1916.

Dear Sir:

I understand that a request made by the Guanica Centrale for the privilege of enlarging their pier in the harbor of Guanica has been referred to your committee. I am also informed by the attorney of the Guanica corporation that it is the desire of the corporation to begin work promptly upon this improvement, and I am writing to ask that your committee expedite the consideration and decision of this matter as much as may be convenient.

I am informed that permission to construct a pier 150 feet in length has already been granted and that the enlargement of the present pier which is now requested would make the pier still much less than the maximum length and that therefore there would perhaps be few questions of importance to be freshly considered in this connection and consequently comparatively little time would be needed by the committee to determine the merits of the matter. Nevertheless, it is my desire that the committee take whatever time may be necessary to arrive at a proper decision.

Very respectfully,

Governor.

Hon. Manuel V. Domenech,
Chairman, Committee on Franchises,
Executive Council.

86 x 11

Mr. Manuel V. Domenech

ASKS CONGRESS SPEED

Wilson Visits Capitol in Effort to Avoid Extra Session.

SEEKS EARLY ACTION ON BILLS

Interested Particularly, He Says, in the Dam Measure — Urges Hurry With General Program — Confers With Chairman Stone, of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Speeding up of consideration of the legislative program generally was urged by President Wilson yesterday during a brief visit to the Capitol. While he devoted his conference with senators and representatives chiefly to discussing the general dam bill now in conference, he mentioned other measures in which he is interested, including those introduced as a result of the railroad strike threatened last year.

The President, it was learned last night, is very desirous of avoiding an extra session of Congress. Therefore he would like to see early action on the railroad bills, a revenue bill, the Porto Rico bill, the Webb bill to allow American exporters to utilize foreign selling agencies abroad, the appropriation bills, and, if possible, on several other measures.

Confers on Dam Bills.

After his return from the Capitol, where he saw Senators Myers, Shields and Stone, and Representative Adamson, the President conferred for more than an hour at the White House with Senator Walsh on the waterpower bills.

"I just came up to gather a few odds and ends," the President told the newspaper men as he left the Capitol. "It was nothing about Europe or peace or anything like that. I am interested in the general dam bill."

President Urges Legislation.

He said he did not care to say whether he favored the House or Senate bill, and remarked: "I am interested in seeing the conferees get together."

The Senate and House each have passed bills to open up development on navigable streams had a conference committee has been trying to agree since last July.

The President was said not to have expressed a preference for either bill, but urged adoption of some legislation and also the passage of the Walsh bill now before the Senate, which would open up waterpower development on public lands.

Calls on Senator Stone.

Before leaving the President saw Senator Stone, chairman of the foreign relations committee, for a few minutes. Senator Stone said the visit was purely a personal matter. The President is known to be interested in the Danish West Indies purchase and in legislation to provide for a provisional form of government for the islands.

The foreign relations committee now has that subject under consideration.

WASHINGTON,

PRESIDENT URGES SPEED ON PROGRAM

Goes to Capitol to Ask Action on His Measures Before March 4.

PRESSES RAILROAD BILLS

In an effort to clear the legislative calendar of administration measures before the next House, with questionable political status, comes into power, President Wilson conferred at the Capitol today with the Senate steering committee.

For two hours he went over the program he outlined in his opening address to Congress last December, laying particular stress upon the railroad labor measures. He said that he still desired enactment of the whole program before March 4, if possible.

In addition to revenue legislation the President also urged action on a corrupt practices bill, the Webb bill to permit domestic corporations to maintain collective foreign selling agencies, water power and mineral land leasing measures and the Porto Rican citizenship bill.

No Suggestion of Extra Session.

Although there was no suggestion of an extra session in case the President's program cannot be completed by March 4, Senator Kern declared that the thought in the minds of all was that it would be much less difficult to enact the measures to which the democratic party has been committed at this session than in the next Congress.

The President conferred with senators nearly two hours. As he left he said he had merely come to the Capitol to confer about the legislative program, and indicated that by that he meant passage of legislation recommended in his annual address.

President Wilson expressed indignation at reports published after his visit to the Capitol yesterday that he would veto one or both of the water-power bills. Such false reports, he said, only served "to throw a monkey wrench in the legislative machinery."

WILSON VISITS CAPITOL AGAIN TO SPEED UP LEGISLATION

Chief Executive Sees Members of Democratic Steering Committee and Urges Action on Program to Avoid Extra Session.

President Wilson visited the Capitol again today for the purpose of seeing members of the Senate Democratic Steering Committee to urge that his program of legislation be speeded up, so as to avoid an extra session.

Unexpectedly, the President left the White House early and went to the Senate Office Building, arriving at 9:45. Last night he called Senator Kern, chairman of the committee, on the phone, and told him he wanted to see the Steering Committee. Senator Kern hurriedly called a meeting accordingly. Outside of Steering Committee circles, however, it was not known the President was making another trip to the Capitol today.

Will Force Program.

It was given out at the White House that the President would insist on his complete program of legislation. Moreover, it is predicted in Administration circles that he will force it through.

Much doubt is expressed on this score, however, in other quarters. It is said the President cannot drive through a measure like the Canadian disputes act, which involves the principle of preventing men from striking pending an investigation.

Wants Railroad Program Finished.

In his annual message, the President recommended completion of his program of railroad legislation by enlarging the

Interstate Commerce Commission, by passing a law for investigation of railway wage and labor disputes with strike or lockout prohibited pending the investigation, and by authorizing the President to commandeer the railroads in case of military necessity. He wants the Webb export bill, the corrupt practices bill, and the Porto Rico bill passed. He desires revenue legislation to meet the threatened deficit.

Wants Revenue Legislation.

President Wilson, after the conference, said he had conferred with the steering committee in an effort to speed up the program. He said the program of legislation included the matters mentioned in his message. Asked whether he also wanted revenue legislation passed, he replied in the affirmative.

The President denied he was opposing the Shields waterpower bill or the Myers bill.

Measure of Most Importance.

Senator Kern after the conference said railroad legislation, the Webb bill, corrupt practices legislation and the Porto Rico bill were the matters which were viewed as relatively the most important. Revenue and appropriations bills, of course, have to be passed.

No conclusion was reached by the conference, according to Senator Kern. He will call another meeting of the committee Monday, and have a caucus soon.

House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C.

Dec. 22 1916 -

Hon. Arthur Wagner
Governor
San Juan P. R.

My dear Governor:

The Committee of the Senate
having in charge the Porto Rico
bill, held a public hearing
last Wednesday, but Senator Proffert
could not attend, because he is
sick, in the hospital - Two senators
attended and they were Vanderman
and Donald. Nobody else would
come. The meeting was held ostensibly
to hear Santiago Iglesias in
opposition to the elective franchise
as provided for in the bill. He
did not have any chance to say
anything. Senator Vanderman said

(22 Dec 16)

House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C.

he could only give us 30 minutes and
he kept his word. Borel's said
a few words (which I interpreted)
presenting a memorandum which
we had prepared and which we all
signed - and after he got through
I said a few words - But neither
of us said anything except that
the bill should be passed without
any delay.

Senator Vandenberg said that
it would be impossible to take it
up before the holidays but that after
the recess they were going to make
a desperate struggle to pass it dur-
ing the first week of January -
I am sending herewith copy of
the memorandum presented by us.

Mr. Warner is here and has helped
us in our labors.

(22 Dec 16)

LUIS MUÑOZ RIVERA
RESIDENT COMMISSIONER
FROM PORTO RICO

House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C.

The District of Columbia prohibition bill
will be voted on the 9th of Jan'y and
every thing which its passage
for the prohibitionist's success in improving
prohibition on the district it seems fairly
sure that they will put it with
Pub. News bill.

Senator Brewster's amendments reg.
arding land holdings will be
discussed too and from the questions
asked by Senator Vandaman at the
hearing I believe that he favors them.

I am going to New York City for the
holidays.

Mr. Daniels is returning by this boat
and I believe Messrs. Beach and Hays
will sail on the 30th - In view
of the fact that I am the only
member of the Commission remain-
ing here and that you expected

(22 Dec 16)

LUIS MUÑOZ RIVERA
RESIDENT COMMISSIONER
FROM PORTO RICO

House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C.

we to be through by the end of the
month ~~also~~ ^{16th} ~~not~~ exactly here to
proceed - will) you kindly cable me
instructions through the Bureau as
to what you wish me to do, and as
to whether ^{you} wish me to return to Washing-
ton after the holidays and continue
here until the 1st of Jan -

I still believe that it would be
the best thing for you to come up here

With my best wishes for a
very Xmas and happy New Year

I remain

Yours truly
Maurice W. Womack

MEMORANDUM OF THE PORTO RICAN COMMISSION.

-0-0-0-0-0-0-

To the Honorable
The Committee on Pacific Islands and Porto Rico:

The undersigned, Antonio R. Barceló, member of the Executive Council of Porto Rico and President of the Unionist Party, Manuel V. Domenech, Commissioner of the Interior and member of the Republican Party, Juan B. Ruyke, member of the House of Delegates and of the Unionist Party, and José Benet, member of the House of Delegates and of the Republican Party, constituting a Commission appointed to appear before your Committee to urge the passage of H. R. 9533 entitled "An Act to provide a civil government for Porto Rico, and for other purposes", beg leave to submit to the consideration of your Honorable Committee the following memorandum of amendments which this Commission believes are necessary to perfect the pending legislation:

Page 5, Section 2, strike out line 7.

Page 11, Section 10, line 20, strike out the words "authorized by this act" and insert in lieu thereof "and voters in Porto Rico";

Same page, in line 22, after the word "offices," insert the word "officials".

The Section will then read as follows:

Sec. 10. That all judicial process shall run in the name of "United States of America, ss, the President of the United States," and all penal or criminal prosecutions in the local courts shall be conducted in the name and by authority of "The People of Porto Rico"; and all officials and voters in Porto Rico shall be citizens of the United States, and, before entering upon the duties of their respective offices, officials shall take an oath to support the constitution of the United States and the laws of Porto Rico.

The evident purpose of the proposed amendment is to make citizenship of the United States a necessary qualification of voters.

Page 15, Section 15, line 11, after the word "may" insert "unless otherwise provided by the legislature of Porto Rico".

Page 21, Section 22, line 16, after word "and" insert "until otherwise provided by the legislature he shall".

Page 23, Section 26, lines 10 to 13, strike out the words "and who does not own in his individual right taxable property in Porto Rico to the value of not less than \$1,000 assessed in his name and upon which he pays taxes".

Page 24, Section 27, lines 7 to 10, strike out the words "and who does not own in his individual right taxable and pays taxes upon property, real or personal, situated in Porto Rico, of the assessed value of not less than \$500."

Page 24, Section 27, line 15, after the word "he" insert the word "declared".

Pages 24 and 25, Section 28, restore lines 21 to 25 of page 24 from the word "a" on line 21; also restore line 1 page 25 from the beginning of the line to the word "discretion"; and strike out the words "the Executive Council of Porto Rico" on lines 1 and 2 of page 25.

Page 25, Section 28, line 5, strike out words "Executive Council" and insert in lieu thereof "Commission".

Page 25, strike out Section 29, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 29. The next election in Porto Rico shall be held in the year nineteen hundred and seventeen upon the sixteenth day of July. At such election there shall be chosen senators, representatives, a resident commissioner to the United States, and two public service commissioners, as herein provided. Thereafter the elections shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, beginning with the year nineteen hundred and twenty, and every four years thereafter, and the terms of office of all municipal officials who have heretofore been elected, and whose terms would otherwise expire at the beginning of the year nineteen hundred and nineteen, are hereby extended until the officials who may be elected to fill such offices in nineteen hundred and twenty

shall have been duly qualified; Provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to limit the right of the legislature of Porto Rico at any time to revise the boundaries of senatorial and representative districts and of any municipality, or to abolish any municipality and the officers provided therefor.

Page 26, Section 30, strike out lines 9 to 11 to and including the word "election" and insert:

"That the term of office of senators and representatives chosen by the first general election, shall be until January first, nineteen hundred and twenty-one, and the terms of office of senators and representatives chosen at subsequent elections shall be four years from the second of January following their election."

Page 27, Section 32, line 13, strike out "the next" and in lieu thereof insert "their".

Same page, Section 33, strike out lines 17 to 20 inclusive, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"That the first regular session of the legislature of Porto Rico, provided for by this act, shall convene on the twenty-eighth day after the next election provided for herein, and regular sessions of the legislature shall be held biennially thereafter, convening on the second Monday in February of the year nineteen hundred and nineteen, and on the second Monday in February of each second year thereafter."

Page 28, Section 34, line 14, before "Bills" insert "Except as hereinafter provided".

Page 29, Section 34, line 14, after word "law" insert " Provided that the President of the United States shall approve or disapprove an act submitted to him under the provisions of this section within ninety days from and after its submission for his approval; and if not approved within such time, it shall become a law the same as if it had been specifically approved."

That Section 35 be amended so as to read as follows:

"Sec. 35. That at the first election held pursuant to this act, the qualified electors shall be those having the qualifications of voters under the present law; thereafter voters for all offices elected by the people shall have the qualifications prescribed by the legislature of Porto Rico and be comprised within one of the following classes:

(a) Those who at the election of nineteen hundred and seventeen were legal voters and exercised the right of suffrage.

(b) Those who are able to read and write either Spanish or English.

(c) Those who are bonafide taxpayers in their own name in an amount of not less than three dollars per annum."

Page 37, Section 36, strike out lines 3 to 12 inclusive, and insert the following:

"That the qualified electors of Porto Rico shall at the next general election choose a Resident Commissioner to the United States, whose term of office shall begin on his qualification, and shall continue until the fourth of March, 1920. At each subsequent election beginning with the year 1920, the qualified electors of Porto Rico shall choose a resident commissioner to the United States, whose term of office shall be four years from the fourth of March following such general election."

Page 38, Section 38, line 2 strike out "of a public or quasi-public nature".

Same page, Section 38, strike out lines 5 to 9 inclusive and the first four words of line 10, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"to be elected by the qualified voters at the first general election to be held under this act, and at each general election thereafter. The terms of said elective commissioners elected at the first general election, shall commence on the twenty-eighth day following the said general election, and the terms of the said elective commissioners elected at each subsequent general election shall commence on the second day of January following their election; they shall serve for four years."

Page 43, Section 42, line 2, after "United States" insert "not domiciled in Porto Rico".

Page 52, Section 59, line 6, after the word "effect" insert

"Provided, that on all coffee in the bean or ground imported into Porto Rico there shall be levied and collected a duty of five cents per pound, any law or part of law to the contrary notwithstanding."

In closing this memorandum, the Commission desires to call the attention of the Committee to the fact that the Commission is bi-partisan in character, being formed of representatives of the two political parties representing public opinion in Porto Rico; that the Commission is unanimous in support of the Bill, believing that it does justice to the people of Porto Rico; and that the amendments suggested are not intended to change in any way the fundamental principles of the bill.

Your Committee is respectfully requested to urge the enactment at this session of the pending bill, which will be received with joy by the people of Porto Rico.

Respectfully submitted,

President, Unionist Party, and Member
of the Executive Council of Porto Rico.

Commissioner of the Interior of Porto Rico
and member of the Republican Party.

Member of the House of Delegates of Porto
Rico and of the Unionist Party.

Member of the House of Delegates of Porto
Rico and of the Republican Party.

January 3, 1917.

My dear Mr. Domenech:

I have received both of your letters from Washington and the memorandum of amendments and recommendations agreed to by the Commission with reference to the Bill.

I tried to cable you the other day with reference to your return to Washington, but as I did not know your New York address I relied upon your having left that with General Mc Intyre. I hope you received the message and have gone back to Washington to remain at least for two or three weeks longer for the purpose of seeing what can be done to keep up the interest of the Senators in the Bill.

I note the suggestion contained in both your letters that you think it would be better for me to be there and add my suggestions and personal influence to those interested in pushing the bill along. I doubt if I could be of any use in persuading the Senate to act on the bill at present, but it is my belief that the Senate will pass the bill in some shape before the end of January, and the time for me to be of use would be to work with the Conference Committee in the adjustment of amendments. I am planning to try to

(3 Jan 17)

-2-

get there in time for that; and if I can get knowledge of the sure passage of the bill by the Senate in time to reach Washington for the meeting of the Conference Committee I am going to do it. Mr. Travieso, of course, will have to come back before I leave.

Everything is moving along quietly and pleasantly here. We see your daughter Miss Margarita occasionally and she seems to be getting on nicely.

I am arranging through the Bureau for you to get some additional money for expenses. We are expecting Mr. Huyke and Mr. Benet on the boat this afternoon.

Upon examination of the memorandum that you enclosed, I think a mistake was made in placing the election so far ahead as July, for the following reason: The political situation in Porto Rico at present is difficult and delicate and may become even more so for the moment after the passage of the new organic act, and I think it will be wise to get the elections over as soon as possible. Then, as there will be no more elections for about four years, I believe that political ferment will cease, at least for a time; but I dread to have the pot continue to boil until July.

Of course I recognize the difficulties under which the Commission was laboring with reference to the restrictions of the suffrage, so we will have to leave

(3 Jan 17)

-3-

that matter to the Conference Committee.

Remember me most cordially to Mrs. Domenech.
I hope you are both having a restful and enjoyable time.

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Hon. Manuel V. Domenech,
Commissioner of the Interior of Porto Rico,
C/o Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department,
Washington, D. C.

The Filson Historical Society



EUGENE S. COCHRAN,
MANAGER.

AMERICAN PLAN.

EUROPEAN PLAN.

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A HIGH CLASS FAMILY AND TRANSIENT HOTEL.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 19, 1916

Hon. Arthur C. Gayer
Governor of Puerto Rico -
San Juan, P. R.

My dear Governor:

Just a few lines to let you
know that things have been
running smoothly but not very fast.

Senator Chaffinch is sick and
it has been impossible for the
Committee to get together and
hear Iglesias and Gumpers on
some proposed amendment to the
voting franchise.

There was a public hearing called
for today, but it has been postponed
until tomorrow. We have prepared
a memorandum which will be signed

(19 Dec 16)



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Washington, D. C., _____

By all the members of the Commission,
I hope to be able to send you
a copy of it by the next boat.

The bill, of course, will not be
taken up until after the holiday
days. I wish you could be here
for I believe you could do more
for the bill than the rest of us
put together.

With very best wishes for a
very Christmas from my wife
and me
Dawson

Yours sincerely
Merrill W. Dawson



EUGENE S. COCHRAN,
MANAGER.

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Per File
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Washington, D. C., *July 19, 1917*

Hon. Arthur Hays

Governor.

San Juan P. R.

My dear Governor,

I am in receipt of your
very kind letter of the 3rd instant
enclosing check for two hundred
dollars for my expenses for which
I thank you.

I shall sign the proper voucher
on my return to the island.

As you already know Senator
Shepleth succeeded in having
the Senate take up the Jones bill
during the evening hour last Saturday.
The reading of the Congressional
Record which is being sent you by

(19 Jan 17)



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Washington, D. C.,

This mail will give you our idea of the question that were brought up in the debate. After the discussion I think Senator Jones felt that the bill was bringing a serious crisis. I did. Every thing seemed to indicate prolonged discussion, if the various elements in controversy were not compromised.

For the purpose the Senator called a meeting of his Committee for last Tuesday. Only three Senators attended out of the twelve making up the Committee. Mr. Hartwell was present and on suggestion of Senator Shaffroth that the people of the Porto Rico present

(19 Jan 17)

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Washington, D. C., _____

give some facts relative to the holding of land, concerned three parties of an hour without stating a single fact - I was asked out in a hurried statement for every one was here after Mr. Hoagwell got through I said that while we all realized the present method of conducting the sugar business in Porto Rico did not make for the development of a republican community that we were not sure that Senator Prosser's remedy was the proper one and that we wanted his amendments left out of the bill - I pointed out also that I thought

(19 Jan 17)



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Washington, D. C., _____

The Senator was mistaken
in his belief that the present
law limiting law holdings
to 500 acres would be repealed
by the new act. Senator Brannon
said it did. I said no and
gave the Atty General of Porto
Rico as my authority.

This brought on an investigation
of the matter and I am very
glad to tell you that Senator
Shepley whom I saw this
afternoon gave me the good news
that my statement had
convinced Brannon and that
the latter would withdraw
his amendments provided
it were made clear in the



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Washington, D. C., _____

[19 Jan 17]

new law that the present
limitation of land holding
must continue in force and
Effect.

This difficulty is then out of
the way.

There are others to clear
which we are now addressing
ourselves -

I think Providence is with us -
I see the President is working
with the leaders that the Public
Law bill be passed before
March 4 - This is the only man
in my estimation capable
of pushing the bill to passage.
I am sending clippings of
the papers about it.



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(19 Jan 17)

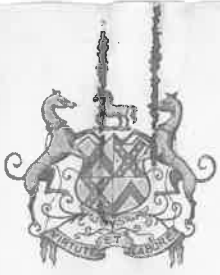
Washington, D. C.

I am now planning to
sail on July 27th but it
is not yet settled.

With best regards from
Mrs. Denmark and
myself for yourself and
family

I remain yours
very sincerely
Maurice Denmark

My sailing shall be certainly
not later than July 3rd



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Washington, D. C., January 26, 1917

My dear Governor:

The democratic caucus had a very unsuccessful meeting last night and came to no agreement regarding the legislative program - the matter has been referred to the steering committee of the Senate for further consideration. Of course, nothing was done about the Pullman bill.

Things however do not look so gloomy as last week. There seems to be a certainty of an extraordinary session of Congress after March 4th to consider part of the President's legislative program and there seems to be less to fear now, because it makes room

(26 Jan 17)



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Washington, D. C.,

For the Putbacks bill before the
end of the session which would
have otherwise been crowded out.

I spoke to Senator Fletcher
this evening and he is very
much encouraged; he fought for
his bill before the caucus but
could get no action toward put-
ting in the urgent business
programme. However, he has
arranged with Senator Acheson
of Arizona, in charge of the
defense appropriation bill to
let him have part of his
time to consider the Putbacks
bill in. He feels pretty certain
that the bill will be enacted
into law before next 4th

(26 Jan 17)



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Washington, D. C.,

although it may be necessary to accept numerous amendments which will tend to make the law more liberal than it is today.

My wife and Travis underwent a slight operation in their eyes at the Walter Reed hospital and although they left the hospital yesterday they are both right sick tonight. This has made it impossible for us to sail on the Coarves ^{tomorrow} tonight. We have been unable to get passage on the "Cavalier" leaving next week. We do not know what to do, in order to get home. General McIntyre has telegraphed to the N.Y. & P.R. Steamship Co.

(26 Jan 17)



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Washington, D. C., _____

Noting that for governmental
reasons Francis and I should be
given passage on the "Procyon", but
the manager assured the list
of passengers was complete.

The best we can do is this.
Francis will sail July 3rd on
"Inaulon" live freight steamer,
and my wife and I will sail
on red D boat "Philadelphia"
sailing July 7th - I shall
be there the day of convening
of the legislature.

With best regards

I remain

Yours truly,
James D. Daniel

Hon. Arthur G. ...
Washington, D. C.



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Washington, D. C., *Jan'y 23/1902*

*Hon. Arthur Capper
San Juan P. R.*

My dear Governor -

We are still watchful waiting. Nothing new has happened since my last. The President seems decided to camp out in the Capitol several days of the week for the purpose of speeding up the legislative program. There is the presidential intervention which will save our bill - otherwise, it will be lost in the mass of larger business.

As I informed you in my last Senate Proposed has

(23 Jan 17)



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Washington, D. C., _____

given up his amendments for
one which will make it plain
that the present limitation
on bond holdings will remain
in force. I am enclosing a
copy of the new amendment
that you may be informed
as to it. By the way, it is
very lovely drawn. The last
line of it is specially useful.

We expected to leave in S.S.

leaving sailing on 27th instant
but it has been impossible.

Travis went to the Walter
Reed hospital yesterday to have
an operation on his ear. It
was successful & he can hear
this evening and he will be

(23 Jan 17)



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Washington, D. C., _____

out of the hospital tomorrow.

Mrs. Danneberg had a similar operation at the same hospital this evening and is doing well but will not be able to leave out for two or three days. It was sure what were difficult and painful than previous. While both of the patients will be out soon the surgeon desires them to have a few days for several days after leaving the hospital.

Hope that there will be no difficulty about going by the following boat.

I saw Rhodes, your boy,

(23 Jan 17)



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Washington, D. C.

His word and he is looking well.
He told me that he expected
you here within a few days.
We are having delightful
weather.

Your senator James today
practically no interest in our
bill.

Senator ^{Sumner}, when we saw, insists
on putting prohibition into
the bill.

With our best wishes for
yourself and family

I remain

Yours very sincerely
Mansel W. Dunscomb