

July 2, 1953

Honorable A. Fernós-Isern  
Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Commissioner Fernós-Isern:

I have read with great interest your letter regarding newspaper reports of my remarks concerning the Puerto Rican Constitution in connection with the hearings on statehood for Hawaii.

It gives me pleasure to inform you that your reference to the agreement of the Senate and House conferees with respect to H.R. 430, the measure that became Public Law 447, 82nd Congress, is correct. This was the agreement I had in mind and to which I intended to refer. I feel proud of having been a co-sponsor of Public Law 600, 81st Congress, which embodies the terms of the compact within which the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has been created. I appreciate your thoughtfulness in clarifying the circumstances under which the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico was ratified by the Congress.

The compact, entered into on the basis of mutual trust and esteem, should be preserved and further political developments concerning Puerto Rico arrived at on the basis of the relationship created under it. In my opinion, in the absence of any agreement to the contrary, the compact under which the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico was created may not be amended or abrogated unilaterally nor its Constitution revoked.

You are authorized to make this letter public if you wish. Please convey to the good people and fellow citizens of Puerto Rico the expressions of my continued friendship.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.)

Hugh Butler  
Chairman

HB/frd