

Puerto Rico



News Service

HAMILTON WRIGHT ORGANIZATION, INC.

PENTHOUSE · BANCO POPULAR BUILDING · STOP 22 · AVE. PONCE DE LEON · P. O. BOX 3968 · SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

CABLE ADDRESS: HAMWRIGHT, SAN JUAN

"For the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico"



August 25, 1956

TO: Peter Wright

George Field lives up to his reputation in the draft of the Lippman introductory remarks on Governor Muñoz -- he has done an excellent job that belies his claim of ignorance on the subject.

I have only a few corrections or comments:

Page 3, line 4 -- Life expectancy has been raised to 64.

Page 3, line 20 -- It might be well to add that the Nationalists employed murderous weapons not only against members of Congress and the President, but against Governor Muñoz himself.

Page 4, line 1 - The Government no longer runs factories. There having been no industrial tradition in Puerto Rico and no private capital willing to undertake the job, it originally opened five factories at the very start of Operation Bootstrap. But it sold them to private enterprise as soon as it economically could. It is interesting to note that the one chosen to operate them on a private basis was Luis Ferre, the Governor's most vigorous political opponent. Muñoz explained this with the remark, "He has better sense about industry than politics." Now the Government builds the factory buildings and rents or sells them to manufacturers. It has stimulated enough demand that it has been able to conduct a cart-before-the-horse operation, building factories then finding the manufacturer to move in. This allows industrialization of areas manufacturers ordinarily wouldn't choose and prevents concentration of industry in metropolitan areas. The government also makes Puerto Rico attractive to industrialists by such inducements as training of supervisory personnel, supplying a skilled labor pool through education, by offering highly experienced marketing and shipping counsel, and by tax exemptions. But no tax exemption is granted to a runaway industry, leaving the United States in quest of a cheaper operation, only to new or expanding enterprises.

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I can't tell you how pleased we all are with what Mr. Field has done. Hope Lippman doesn't deviate too far from it.

Morton Sontheimer

ms:s

cc: Teodoro Moscoso
Hamilton Wright, Jr.
Gustavo Agrait
Mel Most
Scott F. Runkle
Arturo Morales Carrión ✓
José Buitrago
Marco Rigau