

I have read the letter from Senator Charles H. Julia which The Baltimore Sun published on April 2. I shall not comment on the insults he piles on the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico. Any reader, accustomed to the basic tenets of legislative courtesy in the States, will be shocked by the venom of Mr. Julia's remarks. What Mr. Julia thinks of his fellow-legislators and what they think of him is a purely internal Puerto Rican affair. But what he says about Governor Luis Muñoz Marín and his role in inter-American relations is of interest to the mainland reader. I should like to dwell on this point.

Senator Julia shows in his letter, not only an utter lack of legislative manners, but an utter lack of respect for historical truth as well. To claim that Muñoz Marín rose to power in Puerto Rico, aided by the money and prestige of the Federal Government and that the Federal millions were behind him is simply to indulge in an amazing distortion of known facts. Anyone who knows the ABC of Puerto Rican politics knows that, while in the early days of the New Deal Muñoz Marín was looked with favor by President Roosevelt and his associates, Muñoz Marín relations with Mr. Ickes and Mr. Gruening were severely strained after 1936. Dr. Rexford Tugwell, who was certainly in the Know, writes as follows concerning the estimate given to Mr. Ickes about Muñoz Marín:

Mr. Ickes had had no advance information that his strength was formidable; indeed his subordinates had given him to understand the contrary, meanwhile doing what they could to see that their assertions were made good. Their representations were that Muñoz was an inconsequential son of a notable father, lamentably lacking in any quality of application, persistence or ability: an incorrigible bohemian, living his life in cafés, talking largely with a miscellaneous and impermanent crowd of acquaintances: he had literary

leanings, fancied himself as a poet--El vate, his detractors called him-- but he never worked hard enough to accomplish anything even at this amateur occupation: it was true that he sometimes talked largely about schemes for bettering the conditions of Puerto Ricans, but he was offensively apt, in doing so, to confuse his nebulous ideas with the fundamental aims of the people. What he said they wanted must be what they did want; he offered no other evidence. He had been a legislator and had tangled obstreperously with Mr. Gruening. But beyond these casual items there was not much.