

Now, less than 3,000 of the larger claims remain to be adjudicated and paid. But, under the difficult procedural requirements of the basic law, it may be many years before these remaining claims can be adjudicated.

To speed up this program in order that those who suffered in the evacuation may receive some compensation in their lifetime, Congressman HILLINGS introduced his bill last January 31.

His bill simply extends the compromise settlement procedures that have proved so workable for the small claims to all the remaining claims without regard to amount. It also provides that if the claimant desires a legal determination he may elect to have the Court of Claims consider his claim.

I have discussed the Hillings bill with Mike M. Masaoka, whom many of you know as the Washington representative of the Japanese American Citizens League, the only national organization representing the interests of persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States. This league has a number of local chapters in my district.

Mr. Masaoka has assured me that this legislation has the wholehearted endorsement of his organization and that it represents the best possible solution to the problem of handling the remaining larger claims expeditiously.

Fourteen years have passed since the evacuation. Nine years have passed since the end of World War II.

As a matter of simple justice and common decency, to try to help a gallant people in their efforts to make up for the losses they suffered through no fault of their own and as a kind of wartime casualty, I urge that the Congress enact the Hillings bill at its earliest opportunity.

### Puerto Rico Celebrates Second Anniversary as Commonwealth

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. A. L. MILLER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1954

MR. MILLER of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a very important day for the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. It marked the second anniversary that the good people of Puerto Rico are living under this new political concept which was conceived by them and accepted by Congress as a happy solution to a problem which we all wanted to solve.

I am most pleased to have had a part in helping Puerto Rico adopt their constitution which has given them a workable blueprint for their Commonwealth. This action out the ground out from under the shouting, arm-waving Communists and others who expounded the untrue venom that the United States wanted to keep Puerto Rico as a colonial possession.

The Commonwealth has been a success and I congratulate the people of

Puerto Rico for moving forward under the forceful leadership of men like Dr. FRANCIS ISEAS, the Resident Commissioner; their governor, and other legislative leaders.

The new Commonwealth had its troubles. It was plagued by a small group of terrorists known as the Nationalist Party. These fanatics are being controlled by every legal method. This group literally blasted its way across the land when a group of them fired on Members of this body from the gallery as the House was meeting. The first to condemn this action were the people of Puerto Rico—they were quick to point out that these fanatics did not represent the thinking of the people of Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico is an old community. A full hundred years before Jamestown, the city of San Juan was founded by Ponce de Leon. As a result of the Spanish-American War of 1898, the United States assumed responsibility for Puerto Rico. Two schools of thought developed in the island, and for that matter, in the United States, as to what should be the ultimate status of Puerto Rico.

Following the precedent of all former Spanish colonies in the New World, some thought Puerto Rico should become an independent republic. Others, following the precedent of all territorial acquisitions of the United States, thought that Puerto Rico should become a State of the Union. For many years, these two opposing views seemed to paralyze thinking in the island, and in the United States, as it pertained to this matter.

Meanwhile, by a series of legislative enactments, the Congress progressively broadened the scope of self-government in Puerto Rico. During the intervening 50 years, close economic and spiritual ties developed between the people of the island and the people of the mainland, and while it was evident that full self-government eventually must be realized, the alternative solutions offered seemed to present difficulties not easy to overcome.

The people of Puerto Rico understood this. With constructive statesmanship, they proposed a third solution to Congress, one which offered self-government without separation but without incorporation, and yet with a solid basis of freedom and dignity in association.

In 1950, the 81st Congress adopted Public Law 600, which provided for the organization of a constitutional government by the people of Puerto Rico. The language of that act made clear that the principle of compact and of government by consent was thereby fully recognized. The act was to be submitted to the people of Puerto Rico in referendum for acceptance or rejection. If accepted, the compact was to become operative.

In a subsequent referendum held in Puerto Rico, the people of the island accepted the terms within which the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico was ultimately created. Thus, the new political concept of Commonwealth, as distinct from membership in the Union as a State, and from Territorial Status or that of possession, came into being. The constitution of the Commonwealth,

adopted by the people of Puerto Rico, was submitted to the Congress for ratification in 1952. The Congress ratified the constitution of Puerto Rico, and it became effective on July 25, 1952.

The first paragraph of the preamble of the constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico reads:

We, the people of Puerto Rico, in order to organize ourselves politically under fully democratic basis, to promote the general welfare and to secure for ourselves and our posterity, the complete enjoyment of human rights, placing our trust in the Almighty God, do ordain and establish this constitution for the Commonwealth which, in the exercise of our natural rights, we now create within our union with the United States of America.

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico was therefore inaugurated on July 25, 1952. Fifty-four years earlier, on the same day of the same month, United States Armies had landed in Puerto Rico. Three days later, Gen. Nelson A. Miles, commanding these armies, issued a proclamation in which, amongst other things, he said:

We have not come to make war upon the people of a country that for centuries has been oppressed, but, on the contrary, to bring you protection, not only to yourselves, but to your property, to promote your prosperity and to bestow upon you the immunities and blessing of the liberal institutions of our Government.

The Puerto Ricans arranged that the inauguration of the Commonwealth should fall on the anniversary of the landing of the United States troops in Puerto Rico. This was appropriate, for the Commonwealth is the consummation of General Miles' promise. The Puerto Ricans now share in our institutions. They are our fellow citizens and they have, as we do, a government whose powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a government responsible to the people, and whose authority is derived from the supreme authority of the people.

The present relationships of Puerto Rico with the United States are the result of common consent. Naturally, they may change with changing conditions, but they will continue to be the result of mutual agreement.

During the meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations last fall, a resolution was adopted recognizing the fact that Puerto Rico has become self-governing. In the course of the consideration of this resolution, the Honorable Henry Cabot Lodge, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, speaking on behalf of the President of the United States, stated that if Puerto Rico should wish a more complete or even absolute independence, he, the President, would recommend to Congress that the wishes of the people of Puerto Rico be honored. Acting through their legislative assembly, the people of Puerto Rico, while revealing deep appreciation for the words of the President wherein self-determination was so forcibly affirmed, expressed their intention to maintain their association with the United States. It is not that the Puerto Ricans do not desire freedom. It is that they have freedom in association, and they believe that their



EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. BRUCE ALGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 1955

Mr. ALGER. Mr. Speaker, with our expectation of the highway bill coming up for consideration in the House this week, I would like to call my colleagues' attention to the Davis-Bacon provision which has been incorporated in this bill. I intend to offer an amendment to strike out section 11. There is even a question in my mind whether the Davis-Bacon provision can be considered germane to the bill. If it is, there remains the other strong objections which I have summarized in the separate views of Report No. 1336 accompanying H. R. 7474:

SEPARATE MINORITY VIEWS, H. R. 7474

We are all aware of the danger of overcentralized Federal Government with its vast bureaucracy. Our Founding Fathers propounded and we too have accepted a belief in the basic rights of the several States. This belief is embodied in our Constitution. The course of events in our national life and growth has greatly centralized and emphasized the Federal functions but has not disproved the wisdom, need, and reaffirmation of the original basic concept of our Government, nor have we changed the letter of the law.

Now we have a choice again—whether we will hold fast against further centralization and imposition of Federal will upon the States to the loss of their rights, or whether we will permit the States to continue to manage their affairs.

The Davis-Bacon Act provision in this bill is not just an expression of concern for the workman's wage, but is a bold frontal assault on the God-given rights recognized by our forefathers and embodied in the limited form of government set up in the balance between Federal and State authority.

This provision endeavors through the Secretary of Labor to recognize and prescribe the prevailing local wage. Behind this simple statement of intent moves in the Federal bureaucracy to duplicate and take over the work already being done by the State to the extent when local conditions require the State to take part. Obviously, the local prevailing wage must be paid in the past, now, and in the future, or men will not take the work.

What do the workers want? They do not want wages set by a Federal minimum. What the Government bestows it can take away. Are not supply and demand and free negotiation a better basis for wages than a decree from Washington, far removed from the local scene and whose decisions can upset the local economy?

When government is necessary, that government is best that is closest to the people, and if wages must be set let the State exercise this function through the fine highway departments that are now in operation. State officials know more about their own local rates and economic conditions than do Federal officials.

Further a labor matter, if such this provision is, should be properly considered in the time-honored legislative way by the Labor Committee of Congress and not tied into this legislation to be railroaded through on the merits of other legislative needs.

It is all out of the past? Here's a better plan. We watchmen of the public purse must be wary of them. We agreed in Committee that

an arduous and well-detailed relationship agreed upon in the nature of a compact. This process development was certainly something new to the United States, and for that matter to the world. Political scientists were interested in its characteristics, ultimate development, and workability.

That the commonwealth idea has been successful comes as no surprise to the Puerto Rican leaders who conceived it and the Puerto Rican people who gave it enthusiastic support. As to those who studied its emergence, it has proved almost flawless. It is indeed significant to note that whereas in recent years and months and even weeks, both the moderating and violent unrest of the remaining colonial peoples has been continually manifest, whereas in Puerto Rico, energies have been devoted not to violence and protest, but to continual attention to what must still be done to perfect details pertaining to political relationships with the United States and economic development in the island.

Many of the Members here have been to Puerto Rico. Some have recently followed an earlier visit. All are impressed with the almost unbelievable speed and degree of progress which is being made and the tremendous activity toward development and improvement. Especially those who are taking second and third visits are struck by the changes which have occurred since their earlier visit.

This is what happens when a free and happy people are undisturbed to devote themselves to their own self-improvement. In Puerto Rico they call it Operation Bootstrap—the uplifting through self-effort.

The action which the Congress took in making possible the creation of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has proved to be a wise move in more ways than one. Not only are these 3 1/2 million American citizens working together for economic progress, but the commonwealth has proved itself to be one of the weapons in the United States arsenal against communism. It is significant that there is no problem with Communism in Puerto Rico. It is significant, too, that Puerto Rico is continually host to great numbers of visitors from South America and from all the undeveloped countries of the world to view this immediate example of what is possible where there is given understanding and leadership of the freedom-craving heart that beats in every man, where there is organization, and where a helping hand is offered when it is needed.

It is not far from the free world to see that the commonwealth concept was introduced by the case of Puerto Rico. This experiment was a political experiment. Constitutionally it has proved successful.

On the third anniversary of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, 1954, we reviewed the latitude of the American people in the island during the Spanish-American war, it is apparent that the people remembering here are not content to sit by. The Puerto Ricans should be free to work that way toward applying the law for the welfare of the people.

The bill raises social security tax rates beginning next January 1, when employee and employer will have to pay, together, 5 percent of every pay check into the social security fund. Further increases are provided for 1959, 1965, 1970 and 1975, by which time the social security tax collector will be taking 9 percent of the Nation's payroll.

Experience shows, however, that when the time comes to increase these taxes, Congress will back down. It has done so already more frequently than it has enacted scheduled increases. All that does is shift more of the burden to future generations.

The man who retorted to a plea to think of posterity with the question, "What did posterity ever do for me?" now has his answer. Posterity is going to pay his old-age pension. Or will it?

Posterity can't pay the tax, and the increasing burden of social security are going to make it less popular politically as the taxes necessary to keep the system solvent mount higher and higher. That of course is of no comfort to the something-for-nothing members in the House. They aren't looking for posterity's votes, only those of the present whose benefits, if the Senate does its job, will be increased a few months before the program next year.

Third Anniversary of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. CLAIR ENGLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 1955

Mr. ENGLE. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, 1955, this Chamber unanimously passed House Concurrent Resolution 143 which celebrated colonization as a means of which adequate rights of man and the other inalienable rights of the United States were as a colony of the United States. It is now of celebrating the people of the island in their capacity as free self-governing and independent people. It is a proud accomplishment, an equal status of respect, the free nation of the world. The action by the House which was later approved by the Senate served notice that the United States will not be contented with colonialistic policies.

Those years and today there was a great result of freedom action in the House and Senate in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The terms of the independence which the people of the island have achieved at this time that the United States should stand their ground and defend in and protect the sovereignty of self-governing people of the island.

It is a proud accomplishment, an equal status of respect, the free nation of the world. The action by the House which was later approved by the Senate served notice that the United States will not be contented with colonialistic policies.

The people of the island have achieved at this time that the United States should stand their ground and defend in and protect the sovereignty of self-governing people of the island.