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## PUERTO RICO'S GOVERNOR

Last summer President Truman took a progressive step in appointing Jesus T. Pinero, a Puerto Rican, as Governor of the island. Previously all Governors had been from the continental United States and none of them Puerto Ricans. The testimony of many witnesses is that Mr. Pinero has made a good Governor. Now the Puerto Ricans have suggested that as another step in their progression toward self-government they be allowed to elect their own Governor. They have their own Legislature, they point out. Why not their own elected executive?

There is a bill before Congress that

would provide for such an election next year for a four-year term. It was introduced in the Senate by Senator Butler (S. 1184) and in the House by Representative Crawford (H. R. 3309). It is supported by Secretary of the Interior Krug and has met no open opposition. There is the danger, however, that in the legislative jam that is building up it will be put aside. That should not occur. This is an important matter to the Puerto Ricans. It should also be important to Congress. This further extension of the privilege of United States citizenship to the 2,000,000 people of Puerto Rico would be a democratic step forward.