

July 25, 1951

BIRTHDAY OF COMMONWEALTH OF
PUERTO RICO

MR. O'HARA of Illinois asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record.

Mr. O'HARA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the island Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is celebrating its fifth anniversary today. For 5 years now, it has enjoyed the unique and highly successful status of Commonwealth in union with the United States of America. In other words, it has been able on the one hand to maintain complete control of its own internal affairs and on the other, to enjoy the benefits of United States protection in foreign relations, in defense, and in full American citizenship.

What has this 5-year period meant to the island? What have been the gains and experiences of this newly self-governing Commonwealth? It is immediately apparent, even to the most casual observer, that Puerto Rico has not only made good in its new political responsibilities but has also set a pace that the rest of the world will have trouble keeping up with.

The record is impressive. For a people with no previous experience at all in self-rule until United States troops landed on the island less than 60 years ago, the Puerto Ricans had by the decade of the 1940's come to a sound appreciation of

the requirements of a democratic government. Their cooperation with the United States, under the able leadership of the present Resident Commissioner, Dr. ANTONIO FERRO-SERRA, in formulating a constitution satisfactory to both the islanders and the mainlanders has been only one of many manifestations of a political wisdom and equilibrium far beyond that of many long-established governments.

Most recently, the Puerto Ricans have demonstrated their capacity for local self-government in the reelection of Gov. Luis Muñoz-Marin, a truly outstanding figure. The Governor deserves the primary credit for Puerto Rico's current political solidarity, for Puerto Rico's almost unanimous support of the new Commonwealth status, and, equally important, for Puerto Rico's miraculous economic and social development.

The Governor, native Puerto Rican who spent some years as a Greenwich Village poet, returned to his native land in 1931. Since that time he has brought the force of his own creative imagination and energy to bear toward an enduring solution of his country's problems. So popular has he been in his personal touch with all classes of the population that he was reelected last year for the second time, receiving almost two-thirds of the total vote cast. That means he has served in his present capacity as chief executive of Puerto Rico longer than any other Governor of the island in the 20th century and at the same time longer than any current executive in any of the other Latin American countries.

In the past 20 years, and particularly in the last 10 years under his leadership, the little island southeast of the tip of Florida has been undergoing fundamental changes. Concomitant with the mighty and long-sought increase in local autonomy, a social and economic revolution has taken place on the once sleepy isle. Operation Bootstrap has indeed lived up to its name, for Puerto Rico has been setting world records in raising itself by its own bootstraps to a new position of stability and prosperity.

With no natural resources besides the skill and intelligence of the people themselves, and originally with no industry other than the industry of the inhabitants, Puerto Rico has nevertheless raised its per-family income from \$660 in 1940 to \$2,400 in 1950. Puerto Rico has decreased its illiteracy rate from 32 percent to 18 percent; elementary school enrollment has reached 91 percent. The average life expectancy has risen from 46 years in 1940 to 63 years today. The island has attracted more than 400 new industries to provide employment for willing and able workers.

What lies behind this remarkable success story? As underdeveloped countries all over the world seek a solution to the same problems of overpopulation and an agricultural economy what does the Puerto Rican pattern have to offer as a guide to others? Unquestionably, an indispensable element in the island's meteoric rise has been the close relationship with the United States. Politically, this tie has

brought to the Puerto Ricans an experience with democratic methods and especially with local autonomy that has made possible the present Commonwealth status; it has also made possible the gradual growth within Puerto Rico of a truly representative state where governors and governed are in real accord. Economically, the tie with the mainland has brought many concrete advantages. Providing on the one hand an outlet for enterprising individuals who have come to the mainland to seek their fortunes, and on the other a source for industrial development on the island, the United States has indeed played an integral part in the new development of the island.

But to look no farther than the mainland for the real source of Puerto Rico's success is to ignore perhaps the most potent factor of all in the island's metamorphosis: the eagerness and ability of the people themselves to go all out in pursuit of the ideals that they have chosen. The Puerto Ricans themselves have expended blood, sweat, and tears to make their island free and prosperous. They have served in the national Armed Forces in larger percentages than most mainland areas. They have worked hard, both mentally and physically, to make the most of every advantage that came their way. And they have cared, they have really felt deeply the need for themselves and for their children to make their sunny island a successful democracy instead of just another poverty-ridden tropical isle. It is in this concern, democratically applied, that the real secret of Puerto Rican success is to be found. And it is this deep individual conviction which should be an example to other underdeveloped areas struggling to achieve through force the same aims which Puerto Rico has won by cooperation.

It is only fitting, then, that we pause for a moment on this day, the fifth anniversary of Puerto Rico's Commonwealth status, to consider these remarkable achievements of our island neighbors. The old American success story is coming true again on Puerto Rico where the same integrity, intelligence, and hard, hard work that used to bring Horatio Alger heroes to the top is bringing Puerto Rico to the top today. We are all very pleased to have this occasion for congratulating our fellow citizens of Puerto Rico on their past achievements, and for wishing them a long-continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is the good fortune of Puerto Rico, and of his colleagues in this body that the Resident Commissioner is a statesman of the stature and personal charm of the Honorable ANTONIO FERRO-SERRA. On this anniversary of the Commonwealth we again extend to Dr. FERRO-SERRA expression of our admiration and affection.

Puerto Rico: Democracy At Work

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. ABRAHAM J. MULTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 1957

Mr. MULTER. Mr. Speaker, the 25th of July represents a dual anniversary for our island neighbors, the Puerto Ricans: It marks first, the date that American troops landed on the island in 1898; and it marks, second, the date that the Commonwealth Constitution was adopted in 1952. It has thus been officially established as Constitution Day, to commemorate the two most significant steps that have brought the island to its current position as a locally self-governing Commonwealth joined in integral association with the United States.

From the years of American control, the island received its first training in political responsibility. The first elected House of Delegates was guaranteed by an act of Congress in 1900, only 2 years after the island was freed from Spanish hegemony. In 1917 another important step toward self-government was made when the Puerto Ricans were empowered to elect both houses of their legislature. More important, most Puerto Ricans became at that time American citizens. No longer stepchildren of the American system, they have from that time forth increasingly shared in all the privileges as well as the duties of United States citizenship. The next step came with the appointment by President Truman of Jesus Pinero, a native Puerto Rican, as Governor, in 1946. The following year this position was made elective, and in 1949 the present executive, Luis Muñoz-Marin, was elected Governor. In 1952 the Constitution of the Commonwealth was drawn up by the Puerto Ricans themselves, in accordance with the compact passed by Congress in 1950. Joyfully accepted by the Puerto Rican people, this constitution has been the basis of the present Commonwealth government. And Governor Muñoz-Marin has continued to hold the confidence and full support of his people, as recent elections have amply demonstrated.

These last 5 years, representing indeed the culmination of Puerto Rican hopes for several decades, have shown most dramatically that democracy and progress are not just words or remote ideals to the Puerto Ricans. Political responsibility has a very real meaning to all of the Puerto Rican people, from the Governor himself, once a poet in our own Greenwich Village, down to the struggling farm laborer; democracy means not only government of the people, but also government for the people. Commonwealth status has given to the Puerto Ricans an added impetus to develop their island's resources and to enhance their social aspirations.

The results, as is well known, are quite phenomenal. The gains of the forties are being surpassed by leaps and bounds. Per capita income is doubling every de-

are almost half of what they were before World War II. The university and vocational school are constantly adding new courses and expanding facilities. Government housing projects have vastly reduced the slum areas on the island. New industries are moving onto the island every day. Efforts to encourage the tourist trade to the island have not been overlooked.

All over the island, the far-sighted planning and initiative of the government and the eager cooperation of the Puerto Ricans themselves have made the island literally a workshop of democracy. The strength and importance of the tie with the mainland on the one hand and the vigorous political activities on the island itself have given dramatic impetus to the natural Puerto Rican desire and ability for local self-rule.

The conclusion to be drawn from a study of Puerto Rico's achievements is that an area determined to win its way to political responsibility and economic stability should look first and foremost to the resources at hand—to the intelligence, the ingenuity, and the industry of its own people. To sacrifice these precious assets to a system of force and violence, as has been done in Communist lands, is in effect to chop off the roots of progress while watering the branches. Puerto Rico has shown that the democratic process is no hindrance to economic progress—quite the opposite, in fact.

Let us congratulate the Puerto Ricans, then, on this the fifth anniversary of their position as Commonwealth citizens. They have justified the highest hopes of their friends and I am sure they will continue to do so in the years to come. For the spirit of democratic action, once kindled, is not easily killed. The Puerto Rican people, our fellow citizens, have kindled a bright beacon of hope and of achievement for enterprising peoples the world over.

For Better Budgeting

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. PAUL G. ROGERS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 1957

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the Record, I include the following editorial from the New York Times of July 22, 1957, commenting on better budgeting as proposed in H. R. 8002 which I introduced to carry out the recommendations of the Second Hoover Commission. I think it is interesting to note that this legislation also has the approval of the President of the United States, the Bureau of the Budget, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Comptroller General of the United States, has already passed the United States Senate without opposition and

was reported unanimously by the Congressional Operations Committee of the House of Representatives after a 2-year study.

FOR BETTER BUDGETING

A bill described as one of the most vital and far-reaching economy measures ever proposed by the Hoover Commission will shortly come before the House, having just been cleared by the Rules Committee. It is H. R. 8002, designed to restore to Congress some of that control over the public purse which most people think Congress still retains but which to a disturbing degree Congress has lost.

Establishing a procedure of annual accrued expenditure budgeting, the bill would in essence place the spending of Federal funds on a strictly annual basis. It would thus strike at the dangerously wasteful practice of appropriating funds in 1 year that might not be spent until 2 or 3 years later and possibly even for quite different purposes.

The present loose arrangement has immensely contributed to budgetary confusion and has left most Members of Congress in a position of not really knowing what is going on in respect to current spending. For example, funds appropriated for military hardware shortly before the end of the Korean war were still being spent years later without further congressional review.

Such carryover funds are estimated by the Comptroller General at the astonishing figure of \$70 billion. He says the proposed reform will provide greater congressional control " * * * than the present method of appropriating funds. The Budget Director says it will result in improved program control. The Secretary of the Treasury says it should provide an excellent basis for improvement in control over actual costs: " * * * and reduce the vast carryover of appropriation balances.

A similar bill has already passed the Senate without difficulty, but this one has been running into trouble in the House, mainly from high-ranking members of the Appropriations Committee. Despite their objections, the bill deserves the wide and non-partisan support it has generally received; and it should become law at this session.

Tribute by Woodroe Wylie Paid the Late Crawford Taylor

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. LINDLEY BECKWORTH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 1957

Mr. BECKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I wish to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article written by Mr. Woodroe Wylie, route 1, Carthage, Tex. It is a great tribute to Mr. Crawford Taylor and to our area of Texas:

CRAWFORD TAYLOR AND CRIMSON CLOVER

(By Woodroe Wylie)

Last April, I journeyed through Beachfield, Garrison, Martinsville, and below, deep in the heart of Nacogdoches County, Tex.

Being a hypersensitive dreamer whose soul sought beauty in all forms I was immensely touched by the beauty of nature in Nacogdoches County. There were multifarious trees of all descriptions. Some of the pine, oak, elm, sweetgum and the like were large, tall, slender and had market-