

PROTESTANTS AND OTHER AMERICANS UNITED

for Separation of Church and State

Honorary President
CHARLES CLAYTON MORRISON

DECATUR 2-4044 • 1633 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

Honorary Vice-President
JOSEPH M. DAWSON

Honorary Treasurer
E. H. DeGROOT, JR.

October 28, 1960

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President
LOUIE D. NEWTON

Vice-President
G. BROMLEY OXNAM

Vice-President
JOHN A. MACKAY

Vice-President
DICK HOUSTON HALL, JR.

Recording Secretary
HERBERT S. SOUTHGATE

Treasurer
HAROLD C. FITZ

W. MELVIN ADAMS

FRANK W. BLACKWELDER
C. EMANUEL CARLSON

ELLIS H. DANA

W. KENNETH HADDOCK
THEODORE H. PALMQUIST

W. STANLEY RYCROFT

CLYDE W. TAYLOR

JOHN C. THOMPSON

MISS CHARL O. WILLIAMS

Executive Director
GLENN L. ARCHER

Editor, Associate Director
C. STANLEY LOWELL

Director of Organization
JOHN C. MAYNE

Office Manager
GAYLORD BRILEY

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Special Counsel
PAUL BLANSHARD

Special Counsel
EDWARD P. FELKER

The Honorable Christian A. Herter
Secretary of State
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We most respectfully call your attention to the recent effort of the Roman Catholic bishops assigned to Puerto Rico, supported by the Vatican, to interfere directly in the forthcoming Puerto Rican election. We believe that recent actions of these bishops, consisting of the formation of a clerical political party and their giving of voting orders to the Catholic population constitute interference with the conduct of the foreign policy of the United States.

We believe that the orders given by the bishops to vote against Munoz Marin, the popular leader of Puerto Rico, represent a reprehensible attempt to destroy the career of a man who has importantly symbolized the hopes of the free world. We have long noted your endeavors and those of the Department to contrast the wide social and economic progress of Puerto Rico, a commonwealth of the United States, with the plight of many Latin American nations under repressive dictatorships. We recognize that these endeavors have borne fruit. There has been a steady decline in the number of Latin American dictators and representative government has been restored in a number of instances.

We are mindful, too, that in contrast with some Latin American countries, communism has little or no following in Puerto Rico. Many



observers feel this is due to the successful administration of Munoz Marin, who has long been supported by a large majority of liberty-loving Puerto Ricans.

In consideration of these facts, we respectfully suggest that you request the United States Ambassador to Italy to protest to the Vatican its clerical interference in:

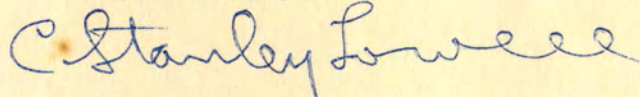
(1) The foreign policy of the United States government, which has taken pride in the social and economic achievements of the present Puerto Rican administration.

(2) The current Puerto Rican election, since Puerto Rico has commonwealth status as a part of the United States and voting orders by bishops violate its freedom.

(3) The successful fight against communism waged by the administration in Puerto Rico and its salutary effect upon the entire effort of the United States government against the spread of communism in Latin America.

If you should adopt our suggestion, we believe you will have the approval and support of millions of American citizens, many of them of Roman Catholic faith, who strongly resent this appearance of clericalism on American soil.

Respectfully yours,



C. Stanley Lowell
Associate Director

CSL/b
enc
srm

PROTESTANTS AND OTHER AMERICANS UNITED
FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE
1633 Massachusetts Ave., N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Have You Subscribed To
"Church and State"
For Your Pastor?

PCAU's Monthly Review



VIA AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL

Dr. Arturo Morales Carrion
Assistant Secretary of State
Administration of Munoz Marin
San Juan, Puerto Rico