

PUERTO RICO PLANNING, URBANIZING AND ZONING BOARD

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO  
DURING 1941-46

H E A L T H

Death rates per 100,000 population for important causes of death:

	<u>1940</u>	<u>1945</u>
Diarrhea and enteritis	406	209
Tuberculosis	260	202
Pneumonia	169	112
Malaria	97	43
Heart Disease	125	96
Nephritis	108	55

Capacity of public and private hospitals:

1941	-	8,600
1947	-	9,616

Urban Public Health Units

Functioning in 1941 - 26  
1947 - 86

Objective: new buildings to replace rented or inadequate structures.

Total cost of construction program	\$ 3,700,000
Appropriated 1945, 1946	425,000
Amount needed to complete	\$ <u>3,275,000</u>

Construction program 1945-46 and 1946-47	-
To be built	13
In construction	6
Plans completed	7

Rural Public Health Units

Functioning in 1941 - 55  
1946 - 74

Objective: 1 rural health unit for each 8,000 rural population by 1960



District Hospitals (Cont.)

Total cost of program	\$ 16,950,000
Appropriations - 1942	700,000
Appropriation, 1946, for Ponce District Hospital (Plans completed)	<u>2,100,000</u>
	\$ <u>2,800,000</u>
Amount needed to complete	\$ 14,150,000
Operating expenses \$1,500 per bed per year	

Tuberculosis Hospitals

Tuberculosis hospitals in 1941 - 5 hospitals - 1400 beds  
 " " " 1947 - 5 hospitals - 1400 beds  
 Remodeled hospital in Cayey to be opened this  
 year - 400 beds

By 1960

New T.B. hospitals to be built - 5 with 2,400 beds  
 Existing hospitals to be enlarged- 3 with 1,400 beds

By 1960 a total of 5,500 beds in T.B. hospitals

Objective: Puerto Rico - 1 bed for every annual death by T.B.  
 United States 2.5 beds for every annual death by T.B.

Total cost of program	\$ 11,000,000
Appropriations 1945-47	1,950,500
Amount needed to complete	9,050,500
Operating expenses \$ 1,000 per bed per year	

Appropriation for purchase of land and preparation of plans:  
 3 hospitals \$310,000

Mental Hospitals

Mental hospitals in 1941 - 1 - 1000 beds  
 " " " 1947 - 1 - 1300 " (by crowding)

By 1960

Mental Hospitals to be enlarged to 3,000 beds  
 New Hospital in Ponce 1,000 beds

Objectives: Puerto Rico - 2 beds per 1000 population  
 United States-5 beds per " "

Mental Hospitals (Cont.)

Total cost of program	⌘ 6,650,000
Appropriation for enlargement of Mental Hospital	1,780,000
Amount needed to complete	<u>⌘ 4,870,000</u>

Malaria Control

Reduction of malaria death rate 1941 - 125  
1946 - 32

Appropriated 1945, 1946 ⌘ 466,000  
Recommended annual appropriation  
for drainage, canalization, etc. ⌘ 300,000

Water and Sewage Systems

Urban water systems - 1941	76
New systems built since 1941	1
Existing systems improved since 1941	21

Rural water systems 1941	25
New systems built since 1941	30
Built in cooperation with Farm Home Administration since 1941	18
Total Rural Systems 1946	<u>73</u>

Objective: To serve 600 rural communities and a population  
of 800,000

Sewage systems 1941	42
New systems built since 1941	20
Existing systems improved or extended	16
Towns without sewage system	15

Appropriations for construction of water and sewage systems:

1941-42 to 1944-45	⌘ 1,650,000
1945-46	3,520,000
1946-47	3,100,000
1947-48	<u>4,000,000</u>

Total ⌘12,270,000

E D U C A T I O N

Public Schools

Enrollment in public schools:

1940-41	-	286,098
1946-47	-	366,931
increase	-	28%

Percent of school population in school (6-18 years)

1940-41	-	47%
1946-47	-	58%

Number of school teachers, public schools

1940-41	-	6,170
1946-47	-	8,978

Number of classrooms in use

1940-41	-	5,266 including 1,088 rented
1945-46	-	6,985 including 1,562 rented

Expenditures for education

1940-41	-	\$ 7,873,362
1946-47	-	\$28,869,054

Annual cost of Education per pupil

1940-41	-	\$ 19.60
1945-46	-	\$ 49.58

Of every 1000 who enter first grade

- 483 reach fourth grade
- 280 reach sixth grade
- 47 finish high school

Objectives: 6th grade education for all children  
Junior high school education for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all children  
Senior high school education for  $\frac{1}{2}$  of all children  
Eliminate rented classrooms and part time classes

To achieve these objectives by 1960 would require:

- Doubling present enrollment
- Construction of 12,000 classrooms - 1,000 annually
- Capital expenditure of \$55,000,000

Possible with present limited funds:

- Construct an average of 500 classrooms annually
- Average annual cost \$2,500,000 for construction

School Construction

Appropriated 1941-42 to 1944-45	\$ 635,000
1945-46	1,935,000
1946-47	3,650,000
	<u>\$6,240,000</u>
Construction program 1941-45	
Constructed	406 classrooms
Construction program 1945-46	
Total	360 classrooms
Constructed, under construction	
or bids let	276 classrooms
Balance to be constructed	84 classrooms
Construction program 1946-47	
Total	548 classrooms
Constructed, under construction	
or bids let	89 classrooms
Balance to be constructed	459 classrooms
Acquisition of land for rural intermediate schools, 1944-47	
Area - 340 cuerdas	
Value - \$172,165	

School Lunchroom Program

Expenditures 1940-41	- \$466,000 including \$300,000 WPA funds
Appropriation 1946-47	- \$900,000
Children served 1940-41	- 54,448
1945-46	- 180,000
For construction 1946-47	- \$100,000
Recommended annual appropriation for construction	- \$100,000

University of Puerto Rico

Enrollment 1940-41	- 5,870
1945-46	- 7,800

Vocational Education

Trades and industries schools in operation	
1941	- 8
1947	- 9
Total enrollment	
1941	- 1380
1947	- 2000
Appropriated for construction of 8 new buildings, 6 of which are	
to replace existing schools	- \$2,565,000
New schools to be established	- 2

Housing Problem - census of 1940

61% of all owner occupied dwellings valued at less than \$100  
 90% of all owner occupied dwellings valued at less than \$500  
 80% of rented dwellings rented for less than \$10 monthly  
 95% of rented dwellings rented for less than \$25 monthly

<u>Accomplishments</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Insular Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
1940-41 - 1,282 Dwelling Units constructed	: \$ 2,235,395	: \$ 248,377	: \$2,483,772
1941-42 - 1,778 " " "	: 3,046,576	: 338,541	: 3,385,117
1942-43 - 1,791 " " "	: 2,359,118	: 262,124	: 2,621,242
1946-47 - 1,893 " " " or under construction	: 899,000	: 4,982,232	: 5,881,232

LAND AUTHORITY

Land purchased to June 30, 1946  
 Proportional Benefit Farms 73,405 cuerdas - \$ 15,241,972  
 Title V - rural communities 19,806 " - 2,258,906  
 Total 93,211 cuerdas - \$ 17,500,878

Purchase being negotiated  
 From Guánica Central 20,000 acres - \$ 5,500,000

Transferred from Homestead  
 Commission in 1945 23,950 acres - \$ 280,000

Title V communities established to June 30, 1947 - 139  
 Number of families resettled - 16,642

WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

Number of electric plants  
 1941 - 7  
 1946 - 16

Production of electric current  
 1940-41 80,000,000 KWH  
 1946-47 371,305,400 KWH

Hydroelectric Reservoirs and Power Plants  
 Garzas Project - completed 1943  
 Dos Bocas Project - completed 1942  
 Caonillas Project - under construction

Power systems purchased  
 Mayaguez Light, Power, and Ice Co. - 1944 - \$1,700,000  
 Porto Rico Railway Light and Power Co. - 1944 - 11,230,000  
 Floating Power Plant - 1946 - 2,300,000

T R A N S P O R T A T I O N    A U T H O R I T Y

Total appropriations - \$ 5,500,000

Breakdown:

Buses \$ 2,550,000  
 Port. of Arecibo 1,000,000  
 International  
     Airport 1,950,000

International Airport

Estimated cost \$ 15,000,000  
 Federal contribution authorized - \$5,000,000  
 Insular appropriation 1,950,000  
 Balance needed 8,050,000

Buses in operation daily - 1943 - 73  
   1946 - 157

Daily wage paid to drivers - 1941 - \$2.65  
   1946 - 4.80

Old buses acquired 168  
 New buses acquired 116  
                     Total 284

R O A D S    A N D    H I G H W A Y S

First, second and third class roads

1941 - 2550 kilometers  
 1946 - 3258 kilometers

Present highway mileage:

	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>P.R.</u>
Kilometers per 1000 population	24.3	1.6
Kilometers per \$1,000,000 property value	29.0	11.3
Kilometers per square mile	1.1	0.9
Kilometers per 1,000 acres of cultivated land	3.0	1.7

Objective: Increase to 5,893 kilometers and improve existing roads.

Total estimated cost \$153,500,000  
 Appropriated 1941 - to - \$15,555,000

P A R K S

Insular Park Service established 1942

- Up to June 30/47 - 20 Recreational and athletic park units completed
- 9 Recreational and athletic park units under construction
- 5 Recreational and athletic parks units improved

Objective: an athletic park in every city and town

Appropriated \$2,150,000  
 Needed to complete \$6,270,000

All new subdivisions reserve 5% of area for park.  
 All housing projects and Land Authority communities have athletic parks.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

Appropriations for current expenditures:

1940-41 - \$475,000  
 1946-47 - 2,600,000

Reforestation program and protection of watersheds for hydroelectric projects

Appropriations 1945, 1946 - \$ 940,000  
 Needed to complete 6,200,000

Land in Insular forests: 1941 40,000 acres  
 1946 59,000 acres -

Soil conservation began by Department in 1945 with appropriation of \$ 150,000

War Emergency Program expenditures in soil Conservation up to 1945 130,989  
 Total \$ 280,989

Milling Centers 1941 - 17  
 1947 - 28

Appropriation 1945, 1946 \$ 110,000 for 15 milling centers  
 Under construction or bids let 3 milling centers  
 Objective: 65 milling centers in own buildings  
 Needed to complete: \$540,000

Fish Ponds - 1941 - 0  
 1946 - 3

Appropriations 1941-46 \$23,000 Total  
 Needed to complete 116,000

Department of Agriculture and Commerce (Cont.)

Fumigation Plants - 1941 - 0  
1946 - 1 (construction initiated)

OTHER AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES

Institute of Tropical Agriculture created 1941

Budget 1941-42 - \$ 40,000  
1946-47 - 125,800

Appropriations for capital expenditures 1946 - \$190,000

Insular Agricultural Experiment Station

Budget 1940-41 - \$ 165,000  
1946-47 - 463,000

Appropriations for capital expenditures 1941-47 - \$ 1,000,000

Federal Agricultural Experiment Station

Budget 1940-41 - \$ 27,000  
1946-47 - 48,500

Appropriation for capital expenditures 1941-46 - \$ 26,500

PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

Contributions by the Insular Government 1941 to 1946:

Land Authority	\$24,300,000
Development Bank	20,500,000
Industrial Development Co.	19,000,000
Agricultural Company	12,100,000
Housing Authorities	10,850,000
General Supplies Administration	6,700,000
Aqueduct and Sewerage Service	6,600,000
Transportation Authority	5,500,000
Coffee Insurance Corp.	5,000,000
Communications Authority	2,845,000
Isabela Irrigation Service	857,000
Model Housing Board	180,000
Water Resources Authority	900,000
	<u>\$115,330,000</u>

IV. Latest figures on the birth and death rates as compared to 1940.  
Information on birth control or emigration, or other means of attacking  
the overpopulation problem.

Table No. 5

Births, deaths, and infant mortality, number and rate, Puerto Rico  
1940 to 1946

Calendar Year	Births		Deaths		Infant Mortality	
	Number	Rate <sup>1/</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>1/</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>2/</sup>
1940	72,388	38.7	34,477	18.4	8,212	113.4
1941	76,130	39.8	35,551	18.6	8,849	116.2
1942	78,405	40.3	32,218	16.6	8,104	103.4
1943	78,393	30.6	29,065	14.7	7,470	95.3
1944	82,526	41.0	29,843	14.8	8,216	99.5
1945	86,582	42.3	28,886	14.1	8,083	93.4
1946	88,907	42.8	27,560	13.3	7,431	83.5

<sup>1/</sup> Per 1,000 population.

<sup>2/</sup> Per 1,000 live births.

Source: P.R. Department of Health, Bureau of Registry and Vital  
Statistics.

TABLE No. 6  
 MOVEMENT OF POPULATION TO AND FROM PUERTO RICO, BY MONTHS  
 (1945-1947)

1945			1946			1947		
OUTGOING	INCOMING	NET MOVEMENT	OUTGOING	INCOMING	NET MOVEMENT	OUTGOING	INCOMING	NET MOVEMENT
2,493	2,033	- 460	4,973	3,802	-1,171	9,552	8,492	-1,060
3,243	1,773	-1,470	4,534	3,437	-1,097	9,402	7,998	-1,404
3,112	1,914	-1,198	5,812	4,177	-1,635	10,940	8,473	-2,467
3,367	1,925	-1,442	7,337	4,140	-3,197	10,873	7,947	-2,926
3,084	2,049	-1,035	9,378	4,603	-4,775	12,291	8,117	-4,174
2,963	2,335	- 628	11,704	6,299	-5,405	12,080	10,636	-1,444
3,781	3,051	- 730	13,933	7,905	-6,028	13,137	11,850	-1,287
3,879	3,209	- 670	15,548	7,914	-7,634	14,532	10,035	-4,497
4,554	2,227	-2,327	14,005	7,732	-7, 273	12,717	8,067	-4,650
4,264	3,095	-1,169	10,670	7,514	- 3,156			
4,221	3,482	- 739	8,299	7,935	- 364			
5,176	4,366	- 810	8,573	10,456	+ 1,883			
44,137	31,459	-12,678	114,766	75,914	-38,852			

For three decades before 1940, the net-migration was less than 2,000 a year. Total net out-migration from January 1945 to September 1947--75,439. The number leaving the Island is intimately connected with prosperity on the Continent. According to Mr. Clarence Senior, Head of the Social Science Research Center of the University of Puerto Rico, in his work "Puerto Rican Emigration", emigration alone holds little hope as a solution, but the situation is so desperate, however, that it must be included in a well-rounded program for attacking overpopulation.

Means of Attacking the Overpopulation Problem Besides Emigration.

Birth Control: According to Dr. J.S. Belaval, Acting Director of the Maternal and Infantile Hygiene Bureau of the Insular Department of Health, there is no birth control planned program in Puerto Rico. In his statement, published by newspaper "El Mundo" of October 21, 1947, he explains that the Government's efforts toward birth control are limited to the distribution of contraceptive information and means, at public health units, to mother with justified health motives for not becoming pregnant. If a mother with justified reason desires to be sterilized, she is treated at the district hospital under the responsibility of the surgeon in charge of the case, with the consent of the patient and her husband. Up to June 30, 1947, 3,373 women were sterilized at the district hospitals. For further information on this problem, reference is made to pages 116 to 118 of Mr. Senior's "Puerto Rican Emigration."

Education:

Extension of education to the whole population is one of the basic aims of the Insular Government. This effort can be illustrated comparing the disbursements made by the Insular Government for education in 1940-41 with those in 1946-47.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Disbursement</u>
1940-41	\$ 7,873,362
1946-47	28,869,054

This represents an increase of 266% during 1946-47 as compared with 1940-41, that when expressed in 1940 real value becomes a 129% increase.

Further information on education can be obtained from the work "Some Achievements of the Government of Puerto Rico" (annexed).

Creating More Sources of Work

Through the program of the Industrial Development Co., the Government has aimed towards the full use of Puerto Rico's natural resources, so that it may enjoy a greater degree of self-sufficiency, and the establishment of more sources of work to absorb part of the unemployment. The Puerto Rico Development Co. stimulates the establishment of new industries by private capital. When this can not be done, the Company itself undertakes industrial projects. As a means of increasing the incentive toward the establishment of new industries by private capital, the Insular Government approved a tax holiday act, that provides a tax holiday of 10 years in favor of new industries. This means that no income tax (Federal or Insular) will have to be paid by the new industries established after July 1, 1947 for a reasonably long period of time.

Tables following (7, 8 and 9) give figures on the accomplishments of the P.R. Development Co.

Table No. 7

Investments of the Industrial Development Company in Established Industries and Reserves for Future Projects

	Estimate Cost
<u>Established Industries (New)</u>	
Glass	\$ 3,360,000
Paper Board	1,750,000
Shoes	500,000
Ceramics	1,500,000
<u>Projects (Construction to be initiated soon)</u>	
Textile Factory	4,500,000
Wallboard Factory	4,800,000
Hotel	3,300,000
<u>Industries Aid Program</u>	<u>1,200,000</u>
Total	\$ 20,910,000