

San German, Porto Rico, May 28, 1930.

Dear Friends and Relatives:-

Hold your breath, for a surprise is in store for you.

Since May 5 we have been in the grip of a revolution against me here in the school. Note the main points.

Sunday May 4 during evening church service the light wires were cut, and in the darkness disorder started. The boys thought there was no way to stop them, but I finally announced that we would recommend that the one with the poorest record be sent home, and if the disorder continued, another would be sent home. This stopped them.

On May 5 at about 8 P.M. Disorder started in the Boy's New Dormitory, Phraner Hall. I had received notice in the morning "Under no consideration go to Phraner". However Mr. Clarence Harris went into the building first, all lights were broken already, and then I went in and checked all boys on the three floors to try to determine those who had helped to destroy property. (I should have said that all hall lights were broken, many doors damaged, transoms torn out, etc.) After Clarence and I left the building more damage was done.

The next morning at breakfast there was danger of disorder, we got word that the boys were going to break all the dishes. We got the police there in time to stop them.

Immediately after this Mr. Clarence Harris went to the Boys' dormitory and expected to make all who had any part in the destruction go home. However, all of the boys said that all had done it, and that they wanted a meeting with the Porto Rican members of the faculty. Permission was given for a committee of boys to meet with the Porto Rican members of the Faculty, plus Mr. Clarence and myself. (Dr. Harris was in the States, Mr. Clarence was acting President) The boys presented charges against me as dean. They then wished to discuss them. I at once stated that I would leave the meeting, and that I would neither answer any of their charges nor make explanations.

Within half an hour Mr. Clarence was sent to my house to tell me that the students demanded my resignation. I thought the matter over a moment, went back down with him to the meeting, and told the boys that I was responsible to Dr. Harris, not to them, that when Dr. Harris wanted my resignation he would get it, but that I would not resign to the committee of boys.

That afternoon several student meetings were held, and then Mr. Clarence told them that the boys would have to go home. At that time some of the Porto Rican members of the faculty stated emphatically that such was unjust, and called for a meeting of the whole faculty to see what could be done. The faculty met at our house. Each one was asked his opinion. Some said this, others that. I stated again that the boys who were guilty of destruction should be sent out at once, and if the others wanted to go out in sympathy with them let them go, then within a week we could invite back the ones we wanted. The faculty however decided to appoint a temporary dean and wait until Dr. Harris would return. This action was finally taken. The students then went back to their regular routine, except that they did not observe rules very well. I taught my classes, two each day, but nothing more.

Dr. Harris arrived May 19, at about 2 P.M. The students were supposed to go to school at one P.M. but they refused to go. At about 4 P.M. the group came up to Dr. Harris' home, and many of them really thought that he would at once comply with their demands. Instead, he told them to go on about their regular business and let him have time to investigate. This they refused to do. And so we had no school on Tuesday and Wednesday, as well as Monday P.M.

Tuesday Morning Dr. Harris met with the boys' committee, and also with the college seniors. The latter were ready to go back to school the next day. Tuesday evening Dr. Harris telegraphed about 80 parents to come to the Institute on Wednesday. They came at the appointed time and conferences were held with them. They in the morning group felt that under no consideration should my resignation be accepted and that the leaders of the insurrection be dismissed. The afternoon group advised that my resignation be not accepted and that the students all be sent home.

On Wednesday at about 10 A.M. Dr. Harris and two Porto Rican teachers came to our home and stated that they thought it might be well for Dr. Harris to do the dean's work the rest of this school year, and for a Mr. Casablanca to do the registrar's work. At first I said alright, but just a little later a Mrs. Palmer, English teacher, came in and wanted to know whether the faculty was going to be consulted before action was taken, that the faculty ought to have some say, or at least know what was going on. About this time I was getting angry at the apparent compromises that were being talked of, and which I knew would merely postpone our difficulty. I went down at once to see Dr. Harris and he readily consented to have a faculty meeting. In fact we met at 11 A.M. 2 P.M. and 6 P.M. The outcome of the meetings, together with what was done by parents, Dr. Harris and others was a programme as follows,-

"The President employs and dismisses teachers and other employees of the Institute. Students have no right to strike, stay out of classes, and keep others out. Those who can accept the above principle may continue in school. Others are to drop out."

It was arranged to have a teacher go to the dining room and notify the students that a decision would be rendered at Breakfast the next morning, Thursday morning.

By the way the decision of the faculty was unanimous.

At about two A.M. two of our teachers had a meeting with the committee of boys, and told the boys for none of them to go home, and to keep others from going home.

At breakfast time Dr. Harris went to the dining room and made his announcement, but almost none of the students went with him to the school building. He then took action, and sent telegrams to parents to come and get their boys and girls.

Early Wednesday night I should have stated also that Dr. Harris went down town to arrange with the chief of police for police protection of both lives and property. While he was down town I was given information that more destruction was to be done Wednesday night. I at once got word to Dr. Harris, and the call for police protection was made more urgently. Five police were put on the grounds, some say nine. Inasmuch as they got there in time, no damage was done that night.

The next morning, Thursday, after Dr. Harris had told the students that they would be sent home, etc., they at once called for a meeting, but Dr. Harris told them that they could not have any more meetings on Institute grounds. The students then went to the town plaza.

During the day, and with additional police help, the students were all sent out, but not before they did bad damage to property. It happened that the police, unaware of the seriousness of the situation, went to lunch all at the same time, except two. At a signal from the leaders at 11.15 A.M. breakage began in both the boys and girls' dormitories. Windows, transoms, doors, chairs, lights, etc. were damaged. Total damage estimates run from \$2000 to \$5000. Several of the police are liable to lose their jobs as a result of their mistake.

After Thursday was over and the students gone, Dr. Harris called for and got adequate police protection from the Governor of Porto Rico. Eleven police are now on hand each night, and six in the day time. One policeman stays at our house each night, and two others are not 100 yards away at other buildings.

The Governor also sent over a special judge and detective to go into the case. He has worked taking evidence for the last four or five days. Today his testimony is going in to the Prosecuting attorney of this district, and two of our faculty members are to be arrested before night. One of them hatched up a scheme to oust me now, and a little later oust the President, Dr. Harris, each time he himself to climb into the vacated office. For more than a year he has been working against me, and by watching his chances, and by using anti-American argument, also misrepresentations, he finally got the revolt under way. The other teacher was with him probably because the other teacher was due to drop out in June, and had been given his three months notice two months ago. Just what will happen from now on remains to be seen. I have to send this out now in order to get it on this week's mail to the States.

I should say that we are dropping about seventy students, and at least one other faculty member in addition to the two already mentioned.

Thus far no one has been hurt. I kept out of the boys' way, not because I was afraid of them, but because I might kill in self-defense.

If we live thru this, and we expect to, I plan to write a book on the affair. It will not be disrespectful to Porto Rico, for Lynchings in the Southern States are just as senseless as our present revolution here. This is not even a Porto Rican Characteristic, for almost nothing like this has occurred before. It is simply a combination of ambitious faculty members, insurrectionary student leaders, and rather strict discipline on my part at this time.

Townpeople are with us unanimously. The Ministers of the Island are with us actively. The Alumni are to have a meeting here Sunday to back us up.

Monday we expect to reopen school for about 200 of our students, about seventy are to be dropped.

Ethel is at least as well as usual, and will not be going to the States until we get this matter settled. I appreciate her willingness to remain here and help to make it more comfortable for me under the conditions.

Now don't be afraid for us. We are going to stay on the job. It would be cowardly to run away from a scrap of this kind, we have to help Dr. Harris and others to see the whole show thru.