

Muñoz Turns Church-State Fuss Against Republicans

By A. W. MALDONADO

Gov. Muñoz, as a final touch to a history-making political campaign, has turned the Church-State controversy into an a full-fledged attempt to woo away the statehood vote from the Republican Party.

In an extraordinary turn of events, Muñoz has been urging that statehooders voting for the Republican Party will be voting for leaders who will make statehood impossible. Muñoz, who has been described by Republicans as the only major obstacle between the island and statehood, has often said that he opposes statehood now or ever. The Republican Party has traditionally supported statehood.

The two pastoral letters prohibiting Catholics from voting for the Popular Party under the penalty of committing a sin have allowed Muñoz to attempt to undermine the Republican Party.

Done A Disservice

Muñoz in speech after speech, has stated that Republican leaders have done statehooders a

disservice by not standing up against the pastoral letters. Puerto Rico, Muñoz affirms, will never be admitted as a state if there is not a clear-cut separation of Church and State in Puerto Rico.

"What will Puerto Ricans who sincerely believe in statehood do with leaders who would, if it depended on them, allow the Church to enter into politics?" Muñoz asked in a major speech Saturday night.

"The attitude of the Republican leaders is doing tremendous damage to what they call their ideal of federated statehood,"

"Sincere statehooders have noticed," Muñoz continued Saturday night, "and are realizing that when real problems arise, problems of dimensions requiring stout souls, they do not have leaders—they have small politicians."

Both Luis A. Ferre, Republican gubernatorial candidate, and Miguel Angel Garcia Mendez, party president, have supported the pastoral letters. Muñoz' "dictatorship methods," Ferre said at a news conference in New York City, are actually responsible for the pastoral letters.

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