

DAVILA ASKS HOUSE FOR REILY INQUIRY

Resident Commissioner Asserts Porto Ricans Would Welcome a General Investigation.

CALLS THE GOVERNOR UNFIT

Declares Strongest Argument for Independence Is Reily as a Symbol of Americanism.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, April 4.—Replying to the charges that he had been actuated by personal animosity in his fight against Governor E. Mont Reily of Porto Rico, Felix Cordova Davila, resident Porto Rican Commissioner, declared in the House today that Governor Reily was "morally and mentally unfit to govern the island." The speech was in answer to remarks by Representative Strong, Republican, of Kansas, some weeks ago.

At that time Representative Strong asserted that the campaign against Governor Reily was backed by the Unionist Party of Porto Rico, which was demanding independence from the United States. But today Mr. Davila defended the loyalty of the Porto Ricans.

"When it comes to fixing the permanent political status of the island, the Congress of the United States will find that the people of Porto Rico will be perfectly contented to accept an autonomous government under the American flag," said Mr. Davila.

After asserting that the advocates of independence in Porto Rico constitute only a small minority, Mr. Davila continued:

"The strongest argument in favor of independence in Porto Rico today is E. Mont Reily. The greatest obstacle to the advancement of Americanism in the island today is E. Mont Reily. The advocates of independence are appealing for new recruits to their cause every day by pointing to E. Mont Reily as a symbol of Americanism. Do you expect to continue to hold the loyalty and respect of the people of Porto Rico when you send to the island as Governor an irresponsible despot, who wraps himself in the folds of the Star Spangled Banner and then attempts to rule our people after the fashion of a Roman proconsul?"

In reference to the statement by Representative Strong that Governor Reily's friends would welcome a Congressional investigation if the inquiry included the management of public affairs in Porto Rico by the leaders of the Unionist Party and the circumstances in connection with the appropriation by the insular Legislature of the sum of \$5,000 a year for the expenses of the resident Commissioner, Mr. Davila said the political leaders and the people would welcome such an investigation.

"I therefore challenge the gentleman from Kansas," said the resident Commissioner, "to introduce a resolution calling for a Congressional investigation of the facts in connection with all the activities of the Unionist Party, the legislative work of our General Assembly and the official acts of E. Mont Reily as Governor of the island."

Mr. Davila read a telegram from the Rev. Edwin A. Schell, pastor of a Kansas City church, in which he said that Governor Reily in a speech in that city last July had said that the salary and perquisites of the Governorship would amount to \$50,000 a year.

"Without wishing to do injustice to Reily," the telegram read, "I consider him incompetent for Governorship of Porto Rico. Common opinion here confirms me in my judgment."

In the Senate today a note was received, addressed to the President of that body, from Carlos Feltton and Salvador Silvestre, two Socialist members of the Porto Rican Municipal Assembly, in which the work and character of Governor Reily were defended. The communication praised his work and condemned his Porto Rican critics.