

Theodore Roosevelt to William H. Hunt

Washington, D.C., 26 September 1901.

Typed letter signed, 2 pages.

Personal

Executive Mansion.

Washington.

September 26, 1901.

My dear Governor Hunt:

In dealing with the Philippines, Cuba and Porto Rico my purpose is to give Taft and Wood and yourself the largest liberty of action possible, and the heartiest support on my part. In taking up the question of the lesser appointments I want to consult especially with you three men, for I have the utmost confidence in each of you. I shall certainly not want any man whom anyone of you who has to be over or with that man disapproves of. I have written Senator Hanna at once about Howe, and I take it for granted there will be no difficulty in his appointment. It was suggested to me that a man named Elliott might be urged for appointment as Secretary of State, and I was told by Mr. Luce that he was not fit for the position. What do you think of this man – if you know anything about him? As to the particular place of Secretary of State, it was the intention of President McKinley to appoint Mr. Charles Hartzell. He had tendered the place to him and it had been accepted. Naturally I desire to carry out this intention, but before doing so would wish to ask whether you know of any objection to it – and in asking you for your opinion I am sure I am doing precisely as the late President intended to do. I wish you would write me with the most absolute freedom as to any appointment that ought or ought not to be made, or as to any other question of policy.

In dealing with our insular possession and dependencies I feel that no consideration whatever must be allowed any weight save the consideration whatever must be allowed any weight save the consideration of getting the best possible service for the islands and therefore for our whole country. The problem is far too grave and too delicate to admit of any other course being pursued.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore Roosevelt

Hon. William H. Hunt,

Governor of Porto Rico,

San Juan, Porto Rico.