

Puerto Ricans Show Little Interest In Seeking Admission as 51st State

By HENRY RAYMONT
United Press International
Washington - (UPI) - The achievement of statehood by Alaska and Hawaii has raised the question of whether Puerto Rico may soon follow suit and ask admission into the Union as the 51st state.

If a majority of its people ask for it, guesses here are that they will get it. But so far the majority doesn't seem the least bit interested.

The 100-mile-long Caribbean island, crowded by more than 2,300,000 people, will mark its seventh anniversary July 25 as a self-governing "free commonwealth" associated with the United States.

Under this system, Puerto Rico has managed its own affairs under its own constitution, elected its governor and congress. However, it continues to be bound to the United States by common citizenship, foreign policy, defense and currency.

Gov. Luis Munoz Marin regards the commonwealth as the form best suited for Puerto Rico's economic and political development in an atmosphere of democracy and not as a step to statehood or independence.

A majority of the people of the island appear to support him. They seem content with their unusual blend of freedom and association.

Strong Showing Hoped
However, members of a growing statehood movement, boosted by the example of Hawaii and Alaska, hope to make a strong showing in next year's election and seriously challenge Munoz's Popular Democratic Party.

Its leader, Luis A. Ferre, one of the island's foremost industrialists, is confident that if a far-flung Pacific island could gain admission into the Union, nearby Puerto Rico's chances are good.

But where statehood was the overwhelming wish of the people of Hawaii and of Alaska, Ferre's party in 1956 still trailed Munoz by 172,838 votes to 433,010. Even so, this was double the Statehood Party's 1952 vote and for the first time pushed the Independence Party into third place.

The governor's main argument against statehood is economic. The tax exemptions and other fiscal advantages Puerto Rico would lose far outweigh any foreseeable gains, he contends.

No Federal Taxes
In its present status, Puerto Ricans pay no Federal taxes.

This has made possible its famed "Operation Bootstrap," the tax exemption program that has attracted some 600 factories to Puerto Rico from the mainland as the commonwealth seeks to build up its economy on its own.

The industrialization program has effectively cut into the huge unemployment problem and turned the island away from a strictly agricultural economy based mainly on sugar-cane growing and a smattering of coffee, tobacco and pineapple plantations.

Financial benefits, estimated by Munoz as amounting to more than \$150,000,000 a year, would be lost under statehood, he claims.

Economic reasoning is also used to beat down the dwindling supporters of independence. "Without free access to 170,000,000 United States con-

sumers for Puerto Rico's sugar and manufactured goods, the island would go bankrupt," Munoz declares.

Omitted by Communists
That is a point deliberately omitted by Latin American Communists and extreme nationalists who for years have waged a campaign focusing attention on the island as an example of what they label "Yankee colonialism."

In their distorted picture of Puerto Rico they have also overlooked that:
-It has been hailed by most Latin American leaders as having set an example to the Western Hemisphere of honest government and of effective ways to combat poverty;

-Scores of technicians from Latin America, Asia and Africa arrive at its shores each month to study progressive health, public housing, economic planning and literacy programs;

-Thanks to the annual music festival led by Spanish cellist Pablo Casals, which attracted the world's most celebrated concert artists. Puerto Rico is becoming one of the hemisphere's music centers. The Puerto Rican government pays for the festival.

Munoz has been vigilant that political innovations and cultural development keep pace with the rapidly growing economy. Recently, he asked the United States Congress for new legislation to clarify the law which created the novel commonwealth relationship.

The United States Constitu-

tion envisioned only territories and states so that a whole new set of laws may be required to allow the commonwealth to reach full political development.

In convincing Congress in 1952 that it should accept the commonwealth idea, Munoz emphasizes that a fundamental trait of a dynamic democracy was its capacity to evolve new ideas even though there were no precedents in the fundamental law of the country. He contended that by establishing the commonwealth, the people of Puerto Rico and the United States entered into a compact that could be changed only with the consent of both parties.

Nevertheless, when he testified recently in support of the new legislation to streamline the commonwealth arrangement and, in his opinion, make it permanent, the governor ran into an unexpected obstacle.

Question Raised
Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.), acting chairman of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, raised the question of whether the legislation would be constitutional. He referred it to the

Work Contracts at Monument Awarded
The award of two construction contracts for development work at Oregon Caves national monument have been announced by Superintendent Tom Williams.

A \$3,560 contract for the construction of approximately 4,000 feet of 2,400 volt electric line was signed with the Trowbridge Electric company, Williams said.

A contract for \$33,397 for construction of a residence, garage, water system, and sewer system, was signed with the Southern Oregon Construction company, Grants, Pa.

These developments are the first of several improvements that are scheduled for the monument, Williams said.



PRELUDE TO TROUBLE—Youngsters happily drench themselves in cool water from a fire-hydrant on a New York street, as summer temperature rose to a blistering 96 degrees. Things became less pleasant later in the day, when a mob of about 25 youths attacked and injured two firemen who were turning off the illegally opened fire-hydrants.

Girl Tripped Up In Plea for Funds

Empire, Calif. - (UPI) - A teenage girl with a vivid imagination almost talked residents of this northern California community into sending her to Texas.

The girl said Texas was her home, that she was 16 years old, that she'd been married recently in Tijuana, Mexico, but that her husband had abandoned her after taking her rings to pawn for food.

Several sympathetic townspeople raised \$6 to send the girl back home, but a check by sheriff's deputies determined that she was actually 14, lived in Empire and had dreamed up the story so she could run away from home.

Approximately 18 per cent of all the cacao produced in the world comes from sources in Brazil.

Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Beautiful Black-Eyed Susan Is Called a Weed

Susan is a wild child of Nature, with flashing black eyes and golden hair. She grows like "Topsy" and scampers across the landscape like a carefree youngster.

"She" is the black-eyed susan, commonly called a weed by those who would forego the pleasure of her company if they had their way. The farmer and the home gardener see no beauty in this wild child of the open fields. They term her a noxious weed.

The black-eyed susan is unusual inasmuch as she is reversing the usual order of

"weedy" plants by migrating in the opposite direction. Instead of coming from Europe, where so many of our troublesome weeds have originated, she is traveling toward the Old Country. Already she has come across the United States, and now grows plentifully just about everywhere east and south of the Rockies.

A "weed" here, she is considered an attractive flower in Europe where gardeners are finding this simple daisy-like flower an intriguing plant for Old World Gardens. With her ready adaptability Susan is settling down over there and doing very well, thank you.

Wild She Is
We call Susan a wild flower, and wild she is. Her nature is to run over the hills and seek out new fields and strange terrains. She cannot be confined. Planted in a yard she watches her chance to escape.

She loves hot, dry and sandy places. Mother Nature equipped this plant with a covering of stiff hairs that act as insulators against the burning rays of the sun. Even the rough leaves and stems are protected.

When less hardy flowers wilt and hang their heads during a long, prolonged drought when the sun burns like a blow-torch, Susan will toss her golden head and stand erect and defiant. She neither asks, nor needs protection or shelter. She can withstand wind, hail, sun and storm. She faces even a hostile world unafraid.

The American Indians knew Susan. Even the Seminoles of the Florida Everglades appreciated this wild beauty of the wastelands. They even found a use for the roots and stems. They were made into medicine that, the Indians claim, would cure fevers and headaches. Bunches of the black-eyed susan flowers are often picked by small Seminole Indian children to bring a touch of beauty to their plain homes.

In some sections of its range, the black-eyed susan is called ox-eye daisy or the coneflower. The farmer calls it a "tramp" and a weed. The child might describe Susan as "a baby sunflower."

No matter what name you know her by she is still the same vivacious little scamp that tosses her gold and brown head in joyous abandon with every passing breeze. The black-eyed susan is more than a weed, more even than a wild flower. She is an inspiration.

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School Construction Bids to be Opened

Bids for the construction of an addition to the Phoenix elementary school will be opened at 8 p.m., July 13, according to the office of the architect, Robert J. Keeney, Medford.

The addition will enclose two classrooms and will be of frame construction.

Plans can be obtained from Keeney's office, 210 Fluhrer building.

Pearl Harbor naval base was leased by the U.S. in 1887.

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