

**The White House, November 13, 1961**



# KENNEDY & MUÑOZ



**La Fortaleza, December 15, 1961**

# **KENNEDY & MUÑOZ**

**SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO**

The White House

Dinner in Honor of  
Governor Luis Muñoz Marín  
of Puerto Rico.

November 13, 1961



The Washington Post, November 14, 1961

## Brilliant Gathering at White House

Pablo Casals returned to the White House last night after an absence of 57 years, to play before an audience of the musical leaders of the United States.

President and Mrs. Kennedy made the state dinner for Governor and Mrs. Luis Muñoz Marin of Puerto Rico the occasion to invite this country's leading composers and conductors to dinner and the Casals concert.

There was a decided emotional undercurrent at work last night, for it was the first time the famed cellist has played in the United States since his self-imposed exile began, following the rise to power in Spain of Generalissimo Francisco Franco. His home for five years has been in Puerto Rico, which made the evening especially significant.

The East Room of the White House has never before seen such a gathering of prominent musicians. Composers Aaron Copland, Howard Hanson, Virgil Thomson, Gian Carlo Menotti, and William Schuman were there. So were the world-renowned orchestral conductors Leopold Stokowski, Eugene Ormandi, and Leonard Bernstein.

...

One person who heard Casals last night was present in the White House and heard him play there in 1904. It was Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, daughter of President Theodore Roosevelt, during whose first administration Casals made his first visit to the White House.



# The Guest List

DINNER AT THE WHITE HOUSE  
Monday, November 13, 1961  
at eight o'clock

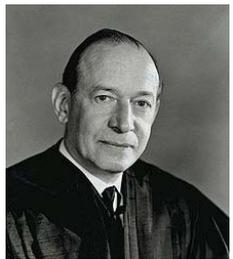
The President and Mrs. Kennedy  
The Governor of Puerto Rico and Mrs. Munoz-Marin  
Dr. and Mrs. Max Ascoli  
Writer - Editor, The Reporter, NYC  
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss  
Mr. Samuel Barber  
Composer, Mt. Kisco, N. Y.  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Belafonte, Jr.  
Singer, NYC  
Miss Dorese E. Bell  
Mutual Broadcasting  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Benjamin  
U. S. Committee for the UN, NYC  
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bernstein  
Conductor, NY Philharmonic Orchestra  
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Blaustein  
Business exec., Baltimore, Md.  
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony A. Bliss  
Pres., Metropolitan Opera Assn. NYC  
Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss  
Wife of former U. S. Ambassador  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas V. Braden  
Editor-Publisher, Blade Tribune, Oceanside, Cal.  
Mr. and Mrs. Basil Brewer  
Pub., Standard Times, New Bedford, Mass/  
Dr. and Mrs. Francisco Cardona  
Editor, La Prensa, NYC  
Mr. and Mrs. Elliott C. Carter, Jr.  
Composer, NYC  
Senora Pablo Casals  
Wife of Cellist, Santurce, P. R.  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Casey  
Lawyer, Washington, D. C.  
Mr. and Mrs. A. John Cleland, Jr.  
Mrs. - Washington Star  
Mr. Aaron Copland  
Composer, NYC  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Cowell  
Composer, NYC  
The Postmaster General and Mrs. Day  
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Dello Joio  
Composer, NYC  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Dowling  
Dir., United Artists Corp., NYC  
Mr. and Mrs. David Dubinsky  
Labor leader, NYC  
Hon. and Mrs. Antonio Fernos-Isern  
Res. Commr., U. S. House of Representatives  
Mr. Jesus Figueroa  
Dean of musicians in Puerto Rico  
Miss Carmelina Figueroa  
Daughter of Mr. Jesus Figueroa  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford II  
Pres., Ford Motor Company  
Mr. Michael V. Forrestal  
New York, N. Y.  
Mr. and Mrs. Abe Fortas  
Lawyer, Washington, D. C.  
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Friendly  
Managing Editor, Washington Post  
Mr. Clayton Fritchey  
United Nations, NYC

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fuoss  
Exec. Editor, Saturday Evening Post  
Dr. Hector P. Garcia  
Founder, American GI Forum, Corpus Christi  
Mrs. Felisa Rucon Gautier  
Mayor of San Juan, Puerto Rico  
The Secretary of Labor and Mrs. Goldberg  
Hon. and Mrs. Richard N. Goodwin  
Asst Special Counsel to the President  
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Green  
Composer, NYC  
Miss Katharine Halle  
Washington, D. C.  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hanson  
Composer-educator-conductor, Rochester, NY  
Dr. and Mrs. Roy E. Harris  
Composer, San German, Puerto Rico  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralldoph A. Hearst  
Pres., Hearst Pub. Co., Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Rafael Hernandez  
Composer of popular music, Puerto Rico  
Prof. Arthur N. Holcombe  
American Assn for the UN, NYC  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Hovhaness  
Composer, Boston, Mass.  
Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy  
President's mother  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Krock  
Krock Industries, Inc., Worcester, Mass.  
The Governor of Pennsylvania and Mrs. Lawrence  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Lewin  
Editor, Standard Times, New Bedford, Mass.  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lippmann  
Editor - author, Washington, D. C.  
Mrs. Nicholas Longworth  
Daughter of late Pres. Theodore Roosevelt  
Mr. and Mrs. Fredric R. Mann  
Business exec., Philadelphia, Pa.  
Senator Mike Mansfield  
Miss Anne Mansfield  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Marcus  
Pres., Neiman-Marcus, Dallas, Texas  
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert A. May  
Manufacturing exec., Pittsburgh & Washington, DC  
Hon. and Mrs. John A. McCone  
Director, CIA  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Carlos McCormick  
Silver Spring, Md.  
Mr. and Mrs. George Meany  
Pres., AFL-CIO  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon  
Upperville, Va.  
Mr. Gian Carlo Menotti  
Composer, Mt. Kisco, N. Y.  
Mrs. Howard Mitchell  
Wife of Conductor, Nat'l Symphony Orchestra  
Mr. Douglas S. Moore  
Composer - college professor, NYC  
Dr. and Mrs. Arturo Morales-Carrion  
Deputy Asst Secretary of State  
Hon. Teodoro Moscoso  
Asst Administrator, AID

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Dr. L. Quincy Mumford  
Librarian of Congress  
Hon. and Mrs. Edward R. Murrow  
Director, USIA  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Ormandy  
Music director, Philadelphia, Pa.  
Mr. and Mrs. William S. Paley  
Chr. of Board, CBS, NYC  
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin W. Pauley  
Oil Corp. Exec., Beverly Hills, Cal.  
Hon. Albert Pena  
Bexar Co. Commr., San Antonio, Texas  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Piston  
Composer - professor of music, Belmont, Mass.  
Rep. Adam Clayton Powell  
Mr. and Mrs. Perry T. Rathbone  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Mass.  
The Secretary of HEW and Mrs. Ribicoff  
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Rose  
Labor official, NYC  
Hon. and Mrs. Pierre E. G. Salinger  
Press Secretary to the President  
Mr. and Mrs. Jesus Maria Sanroma  
Pianist, Puerto Rico - former soloist with Boston Symphony  
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Schuman  
Composer-educator, NYC  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger H. Sessions  
Composer - music educator, Princeton, N. J.  
Mrs. R. Sargent Shriver, Jr.  
Wife of Director, Peace Corps  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger L. Stevens  
Theatrical Producer, NYC  
Mr. Leopold Stokowski  
Conductor, Houston Symphony Orchestra, NYC  
Gen. and Mrs. Maxwell D. Taylor  
Military Representative of the President  
Mr. Virgil Thomson  
Composer - music critic, NYC  
Mr. and Mrs. William J. van den Heuvel  
Pres., Int'l Rescue Comte and Chairman,  
Puerto Rican Board of Guardians, NYC  
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Vanderbilt  
Chestnut Hill, Mass.  
Hon. and Mrs. Robert F. Wagner  
Mayor of New York City  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Watson  
Pres., IBM, Greenwich, Conn.  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Weeks  
Editor, Atlantic Monthly, Boston, Mass.  
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Table Decorations:  
Dining Room - White and Yellow Carnations, Miniature White  
Carnations, Small Oranges, Bouvardia and  
White Daisies  
Blue Room - White Anemones, Bachelor's Button and  
Blue Lace Flower



**The Governor of the  
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico**

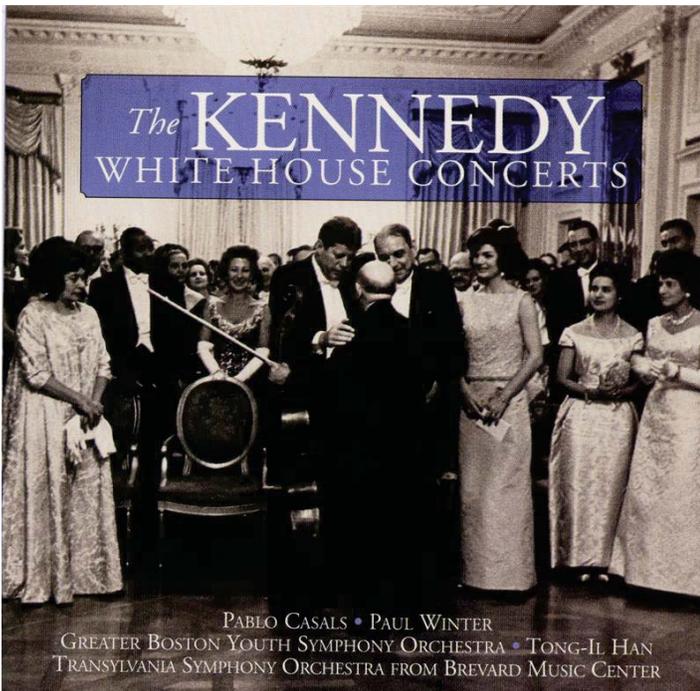
November 27, 1961

Dear Mr. President:

**T**he evening of November thirteenth will be cherished in the memories of Mrs. Muñoz and myself as a memorable occasion. Your graciousness and that of Mrs. Kennedy in rendering honor to the good people of Puerto Rico will have a lasting place of affection in their remembrance and ours. And it was most thoughtful to join the occasion to the tribute of admiration for your leadership that Maestro Casals' music expressed for himself and for his neighbors in Puerto Rico.

Sincerely yours,

LUIS MUÑOZ MARIN



La Fortaleza

Dinner in Honor of  
President John F. Kennedy

December 15, 1961



## Welcoming Remarks by Governor Luis Muñoz Marín

**M**r. President, a warm and affectionate welcome to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

We are deeply honored as well as highly delighted by your visit and that of your gracious First Lady. As you are going to hear and see shortly, the people of Puerto Rico did not need me to offer this welcome. You are going to receive it directly and clamorously from the people themselves. No words that I could say could express their sentiments better than thousands of Puerto Ricans will express. I address you first in Spanish because this is the language of our culture and it is also the language of the people that you are about to visit in the name of a great principle of progress with freedom, of justice with freedom.

Puerto Ricans are a Latin people who are making a great effort to eliminate poverty from their lives. In this effort Puerto Rico has had the support and the unstinting aid of the Government of the United States.

The United States and Puerto Rico have been allies for a long time, for progress with justice, for progress with liberty. In this task, which is a

challenge to the whole hemisphere, Puerto Rico has one significance above all others. That significance is not primarily that we have achieved a measure of success in dealing with our problems. It is rather that Puerto Rico shows in the simplest, clearest and most dramatic form that there is no reason at all, save an artificial or malicious one, to prevent this greatest respect, the most genuine mutual affection, between the United States and the American people that are of Latin origin.

Democracy, justice, respect, affection, they are concurrent. The relationship between the United States and Puerto Rico is the best contribution that our people can make to the Alliance for Progress.

I wish to repeat how proud we are to have with us one that can be counted among the greatest Presidents of the United States and in any way in which we in Puerto Rico can humbly aid you in your great task we would be greatly honored to do so.

Mr. President, *está en su casa*, you are in your house.



## Remarks by President John F. Kennedy

Governor, it is a great experience to fly many hundreds of miles into the Atlantic Ocean, to come to an Island and be greeted in Spanish, to come to an Island which has an entirely different tradition and history, which is made up of people of an entirely different cultural origin than of the mainland of the United States, and still be able to feel that I am in my country, here in this city and Island, as I was in my country in Washington this morning.

And I am particularly appreciative and glad that I have been welcomed by you Governor. What you have been able with your devoted associates and the people of this Island, have been able to do in the last decade, to build a better life, to tackle the difficult problems of education, of housing and employment and all the rest, has given us inspiration to feel that we can carry on the great cooperative effort throughout the entire hemisphere.

And I think it most appropriate that the man who served under you in this great enterprise, ambassador Ted Moscoso, who was our ambassador to Venezuela, should now be the director of the Alliance for Progress, and be able to hold

up encouragement to people everywhere in this Hemisphere by pointing to what has been done on this Island. Also another devoted public servant from this Island, Arturo Morales Carrión, who is now our deputy assistant Secretary of State for Latin America.

Puerto Rico serves as an admirable bridge between Latin America and North America. You have, I think, served to make it easier for us to understand each other. And therefore it is most important and appropriate that we should start this journey to two great countries, Venezuela and Colombia, that we should come here first.

I want to express the thanks of all of us to you. You welcomed our Peace Corps representatives and gave them training which I think has contributed to their success. We come here today and I will value your counsel. And I am sure that as a result of our stay here that our journeys tomorrow and Sunday will be more fruitful.

Governor, I am grateful to you and I am grateful to your people.



July 25, 1961

**MESSAGE OF GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE PEOPLE OF  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO  
ON THE NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
THE COMMONWEALTH**

**M**y cordial greetings and best wishes go to Governor Munoz Marin and the people of Puerto Rico on this ninth anniversary of the establishment of the Commonwealth.

The great social and economic accomplishments of the Commonwealth have evoked the admiration of your fellow-citizens throughout the United States, and, indeed, of freedom loving Americans throughout the Hemisphere.

In achieving the transition from a stagnant, low income society to a dynamic, prospering community, Puerto Rico has been the source of hope and inspiration to those of us deeply concerned with

charting new courses of social progress for our Hemisphere.

What we seek to accomplish in our *Alianza para el Progreso* has already been accomplished to a remarkable measure in Puerto Rico. That the people of Puerto Rico have pioneered the translating objectives of social advancement, long range economic planning, equitable tax structures, improved land use and vigorous investment in education, into visible realities is undeniable proof to all citizens of the Americas of the strength and creativeness of democratic ideals.



July 25, 1961

## MEMORANDUM FROM THE PRESIDENT ADDRESSED TO THE HEADS OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

**B**ecause of the importance and significance of Puerto Rico in the relations of the United States with Latin America and other nations, it is essential that the executive departments and agencies be completely aware of the unique position of the Commonwealth, and that policies, actions, reports on legislation, and other activities affecting the Commonwealth should be consistent with the structure and basic principles of the Commonwealth.

On July 25, 1952, the Governor of Puerto Rico proclaimed the establishment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico under its constitution. The proclamation was the culmination of a series of legislative and electoral steps which began with the passage of Public Law 600, 81st Congress, 64 Stat. 319 (1950). Public Law 600 made provision for organization of a constitutional government by the people of Puerto Rico. In a referendum, held on June 4, 1951, the proposals of this law received the overwhelming approval of the people of Puerto Rico.

Following approval, a Puerto Rican constitutional convention drafted a constitution, which was approved by a referendum held on March 3, 1952. The Congress, in turn approved this constitution. (Public Law 447, 82nd Congress, 66 Stat. 327 (1952)).

The Commonwealth structure and its relationship to the United States which is in the nature of a compact, provide for self government in respect of internal affairs and administration, subject only to the applicable provisions of the Federal Constitution, the Puerto Rican Federal Relations Act, and the acts of Congress authoriz-

ing and approving the constitution.

On November 27, 1953, the General Assembly of the United Nations recognized that the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, exercising effectively the right of self-determination in a free and democratic way, had achieved a new constitutional status and that, in view of this new status, it was appropriate that the United States should cease the transmission of information with regard to Puerto Rico under Article 73(e) of the Charter. (U.N. Gen. Ass. Res. 740 (VIII) (1953)).

All departments, agencies, and officials of the executive branch of the Government should faithfully and carefully observe and respect this arrangement in relation to all matters affecting the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. If any matters arise involving the fundamentals of this arrangement, they should be referred to the Office of the President.

The legislative steps which have led to the achievement by Puerto Rico of Commonwealth status have made inapplicable the provisions of Executive Order No. 6726 of May 29, 1934, insofar as they pertain to or are connected with the administration of the Government of Puerto Rico. This order no longer applies to Puerto Rico.

This memorandum shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.



Governor Muñoz Marín, President Kennedy with Puerto Rico's Resident Commissioner Antonio Fernós Isern.

July 10, 1962

## LETTER FROM GOVERNOR MUÑOZ MARIN TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY

My dear Mr. President:

On July 25 of this year, the people of Puerto Rico will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth relationship was the creation of which both the United States and the people of Puerto Rico may well be proud. It was a new type of arrangement in the constitutional system of the United States; at that time ten years ago, it was a pioneering effort in the world to terminate colonialism by substituting for it, not nationalism or independence, but freedom within the framework of a close and mutually beneficial association between a small and a larger community.

It took account of the basic democratic values involved, by incorporating the principles of self-determination and the right of people to be governed by their own consent, and did so in a realistic manner adapted to the political and economic practicalities of Puerto Rico's situation. We were aware then, and have become increasingly, and now acutely, aware that the arrangement was not perfect. The Constitutional Convention itself recognized from the beginning that there was room for growth and that this growth could and should be not towards independence or federal statehood but within the genius of the creative Commonwealth idea itself.

I believe it is now time for that growth to occur. And undue delay in this cannot but be hurtful to Puerto Rico and to the significance of Puerto Rico as a show-

case and example of the attitude of the United States in a world where colonialism is obsolete and extreme nationalism is obsolescent.

In planning the growth of the Commonwealth, we should, I believe, proceed along the following lines:

- (1) The indispensable principle of the Commonwealth is self-government for Puerto Rico in permanent association with the United States on the basis of common loyalty, common citizenship, mutual dedication to democracy and mutual commitment to freedom.
- (2) The moral and juridical basis of the Commonwealth should be further clarified so as to eliminate any possible basis for the accusation, which is made by enemies and misguided friends of the United States and Puerto Rico, that the Commonwealth was not the free choice of the people of Puerto Rico acting in their sovereign capacity, but was merely a different kind of colonial arrangement to which they consented.
- (3) The governmental power and authority of the Commonwealth should be complete and any reservations or exceptions which are not an indispensable part of the arrangements for permanent association with the United States should be eliminated. Methods should be devised for forms of participa-

tion, appropriate to the Commonwealth concept, by the people of Puerto Rico on federal functions that affect them.

Certainly, the interests of the United States and of Puerto Rico would be greatly served by reaffirmation of our compact –including the guarantees of permanent association and common citizenship which practically all Puerto Ricans prize deeply– in a form which will leave no room for doubt as to the sovereign capacity of the people of Puerto Rico to give and receive these commitments.

Accordingly, it seems clear that the people of Puerto Rico should be consulted anew on governmental arrangements. The time has now come when the people, in the basis of their own experience, should consider how to perfect the Commonwealth concept within their permanent association with the Federal Union. This represents my conviction, and I believe that of the vast majority of Puerto Ricans, in what should be done. However, so that no doubt may exist anywhere in the world as to the deep validity of the relationship, I believe that the Puerto Rican people should have an opportunity to indicate their preference clearly and directly for any other form of governmental relationship if they should prefer any



such other form.

It is my intention to request the Commonwealth legislature to enact a law pursuant to which proposals to perfect the Commonwealth within its association with the United States would be submitted to the people of Puerto Rico.

It is my purpose also to recommend that advocates of both independence and of federated statehood for

Puerto Rico should be afforded the opportunity in the legislation to present these alternatives to the electorate, so that no doubt whatever may be entertained either in Puerto Rico, in the United States or elsewhere that the basic United States principle of self-determination has been thoroughly carried out.

This will be a forceful, practical and opportune reminder of a fundamental American doctrine, and it will provide a basis for another great symbolic and practical forward movement in the relations of the United States and Puerto Rico. I am confident that we may rely on your support.

Sincerely yours,

LUIS MUÑOZ MARIN

July 25, 1962

**MESSAGE TO GOVERNOR MUÑOZ MARIN  
ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

Dear Governor Munoz:

I have your letter advising me of the celebration on July 25 of the tenth anniversary of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. This is indeed a great occasion. The achievements of the Puerto Rican people in this short period have been remarkable. Puerto Rico has furnished an example to the world of the benefits that can be achieved by close collaboration between a larger and a smaller community within the framework of freedom and mutual agreement. I am confident that I speak for the people of the United States as well as their government in expressing my pride and pleasure at Puerto Rico's achievements.

I am aware, however, as you point out, that the Commonwealth relationship is not perfected and that it has not yet realized its full potential, and I

welcome your statement that the people of Puerto Rico are about to begin the consideration of this with the purpose of moving towards its maximum development. I am in full sympathy with this aspiration. I see no reason why the Commonwealth concept, if that is the desire of the people of Puerto Rico, should not be fully developed as a permanent institution in its association with the United States. I agree that this is a proper time to recognize the need for growth and, both as a matter of fairness to all concerned and of establishing an unequivocal record, to consult the people of Puerto Rico, as you propose to do, so that they may express any other preference, including independence, if that should be their wish.

Sincerely,

JOHN F. KENNEDY



Marta and Pablo Casals with the President and Mrs. Kennedy.

December 6, 1963

## **Remarks of President Johnson and Under Secretary of State George W. Ball at the Presentation of the Medal of Freedom Awards**

Mr. Ball: Today, the President of the United States is expressing the appreciation of a great Nation for the extraordinary achievements of a remarkable group of men and women, achievements spanning a wide spectrum of human endeavor: the arts, science, diplomacy, government, the humanities, the law, and philanthropy.

For the first time, the President is establishing what we can proudly call an American civil honors list. Each year hereafter the Presidential Medal of Freedom will be conferred upon a few individuals chosen with great care by the President himself.

The ceremony today has a dual significance. We are joining President Johnson not only in honoring the recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the high endeavors that have won them this acclaim but also in paying tribute to the man responsible for this new decoration.

...

This first year, the Presidential Medal of Freedom is being conferred on 31 individuals. In the case of 9, the special award is being awarded with distinction.

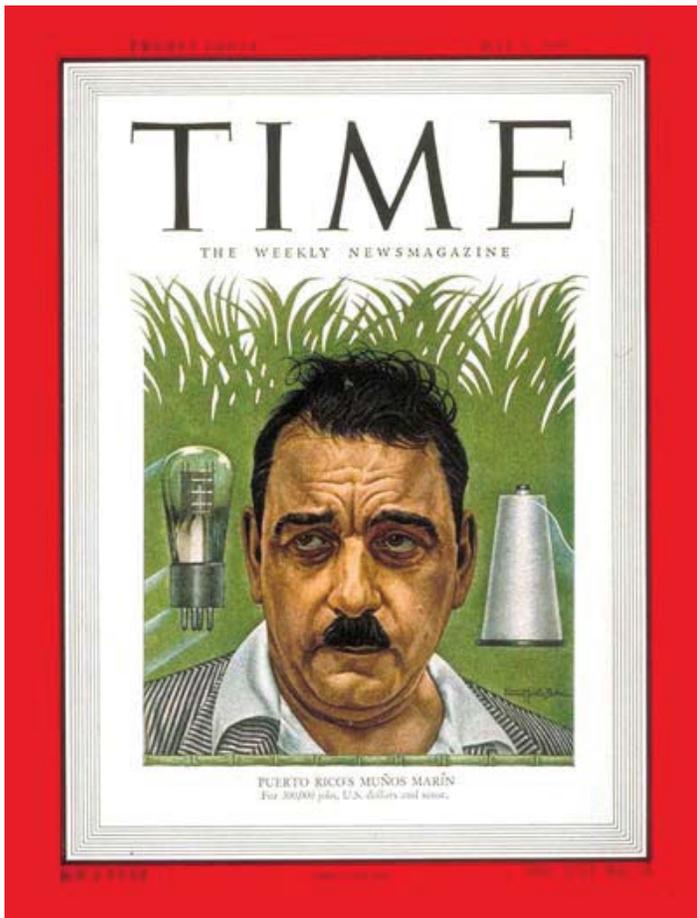
**MR. BALL:**

Governor Luis Muñoz Marin.

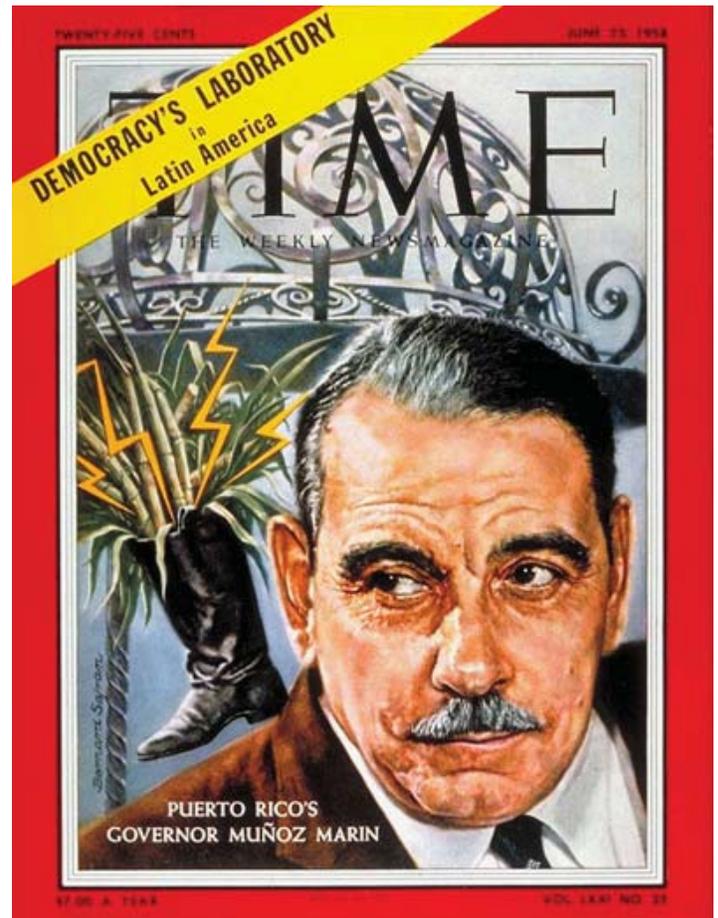
**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:**

Poet, politician, public servant, patriot, he has led his people on to new heights of dignity and purpose and transformed a stricken land into a vital society.

AWARDED WITH DISTINCTION



May 2, 1949



June 23, 1958