

74TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 12611

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 6, 1936

Mr. MARCANTONIO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Insular Affairs and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To provide for the granting of sovereignty to the island of Puerto Rico, and to provide for neighborly relations with the proposed Government of Puerto Rico.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That ninety days after the enactment of this Act the Presi-
4 dent of the United States shall by proclamation withdraw
5 and surrender all rights of possession, supervision, jurisdic-
6 tion, control, and sovereignty now existing and exercised by
7 the United States in and over the Territory and people of
8 Puerto Rico, including all military, naval, and other reserva-
9 tions, and, on behalf of the United States, shall recognize the
10 independence of Puerto Rico as a separate and self governing

1 nation and acknowledge the authority and control over the
2 same of any government which the people thereof may
3 constitute and the right of the Government of Puerto Rico
4 to decide all internal questions, including those relating to
5 American property and citizens and diplomatic relations,
6 without interference or intervention.

7 SEC. 2. All problems arising between the United
8 States and Puerto Rico from the formation of the sovereign
9 Puerto Rican Government shall be submitted for arbitration
10 to a joint commission appointed by the Government of the
11 United States and the Government of Puerto Rico.

12 SEC. 3. In proclaiming the independence of Puerto
13 Rico, the President of the United States shall recognize the
14 responsibility of the United States toward the present
15 disastrous state of Puerto Rican economy and the poverty
16 of its people and to strive for friendly relations with the
17 new Government of Puerto Rico, shall declare free entry
18 on Puerto Rican products into the United States, and no
19 immigration restrictions on Puerto Rican citizens shall be
20 made until the Government of Puerto Rico should expres-
21 its desire otherwise. This principle is to be recognized in
22 a treaty between the two nations and said treaty shall be
23 made with the best intentions of developing Puerto Rican
24 economy and the well-being of its people. The discussion
25 of this treaty shall begin within ninety days after the new

1 Government of Puerto Rico expresses its desire to begin.
2 In the interim between the proclamation of Puerto Rican
3 independence and the signing of this treaty, the present
4 status quo in the matter of trade relations shall be
5 maintained.

6 SEC. 4. By virtue of its responsibility for the present
7 disastrous state of Puerto Rican economy and the poverty
8 of the people of Puerto Rico, it is hereby declared to be the
9 policy of the United States that the United States shall be
10 responsible to the Puerto Rican people for any claims of
11 indemnity which the Government of Puerto Rico may make.

12 SEC. 5. Upon the proclamation and recognition of the
13 independence of Puerto Rico, the President of the United
14 States shall give notice of such action to the governments
15 with which the United States is in diplomatic correspond-
16 ence and invite said governments to recognize the independ-
17 ence of Puerto Rico.

18 SEC. 6. At the time of the issuance of the proclamation
19 under section 1 hereof, the President shall appoint a com-
20 mission of five to carry out the provisions of section 2 and
21 section 4 of this Act.

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