

Puerto Rico Notebook

By Julio Francis Edwards

The Secretary of Education has applied to the Planning Board for a \$3,000,000 annual appropriation to build additional schoolrooms during the next six years. It would spend \$1,650,000 during 1952-53 in the construction of 357 rooms... Arguing that he wants to augment by two per-cent the number of elementary students and by one per cent that in the junior and senior high schools, Secretary Villarronga informed that at present only 74 per cent of children between 6 and 12

years are registered in the elementary schools; 67 per cent between 13 and 15 years in the junior high schools and 34 per cent between 16 and 18 years in the senior high schools.

It is believed that with the 6-year plan of \$18,000,000 schoolrooms construction, averages will be raised 91.75, & 41 per-cent by 1960.

Although statistics are not final, it was revealed that 51 houses have been destroyed in Ponce by floods during the present rainy season, and 91 in several other cities and towns. Losses surpass the \$800,000 mark.

By the Governor of the Virgin Islands
of the United States

A Proclamation

Whereas, for the first time in our history an enemy has the power to loose the tremendous destructive power of modern weapons on the American mainland;

Whereas, our military leaders have emphasized time and again that in the face of modern weapons of mass destruction, military measures alone cannot protect our vital industries from being destroyed and our people from being killed;

Whereas, our national civil defense program as a whole has not yet reached the level of preparedness essential to our national security, thus creating a dangerous unbalance in our total preparedness;

Whereas, a strong civil defense program, like a strong military program, is not just a shield but a sword; without preparedness on the homefront, we invite attack; with such preparedness, civil defense can be a major force in helping keep the peace;

Whereas, there is need for a planned program of civil defense in the Virgin Islands, which constitute the easternmost defense outpost of the United States in the Caribbean;

Whereas, the kind of home defense program, strong enough to protect our homeland, requires individual action and complete community support;

Now, Therefore, I Morris F. de Castro, Governor of the Virgin Islands, do hereby proclaim the period from Armistice Day to Thanksgiving Day (November 11 to November 27, 1952) as a special "Time For Home Defense Action" by all our citizens, and do call upon every citizen and every organized group in this community to reaffirm our national unity and devotion as Americans and to participate in our Civil Defense "Pledge for Home Defense" campaign; thus expressing our active rededication as a free people by voluntarily signifying a willingness to train ourselves and members of our families in self-protection and to be included in a register of potential volunteers from which our civil defense organization can select volunteer leaders for specialized civil defense training in the months to come.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, V. I. this twentieth day of October, A.D., 1952.

Morris F. de Castro, Governor

Countersigned

Daniel W. Ambrose
Government Secretary

VOTE FOR

OSWALD E. HARRIS

Independent Candidate for the Town District



Conscientious, honest, hardworking, devotes his time and efforts to solving the problems of the common man. Approachable at all times, ever ready and willing to help.

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