

MARCH • 1906

From the first I have given a great deal of personal attention to the care of these Porto Rican students. I have done it mainly because I have been anxious that they be not spoiled. It is very difficult, as you know, for a student to receive aid from any source without being weakened, and especially is it difficult for one to be helped from a government without his getting the feeling that he must lie down upon the government and be treated as a hot house plant. These students are much better dressed both in comfort and in appearance than the average student at Tuskegee, and you can always rest assured that we never let them suffer for anything that is absolutely necessary for their comfort. We do try, however, to teach them to be sensible and economical, and this I am quite sure is what you want. Our experience on the whole with the Porto Rican students has been satisfactory. We find that while at first they grumble and complain a good deal, before they leave us they settle down to sensible ideas of life. Yours truly,

Booker T. Washington

I believe that we could inflict no greater wrong upon these students than to yield in any measure to their whims and to have everything they want simply because the money comes from the government.

TLpS Con. 315 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ Everett William Lord (b. 1871) was assistant commissioner of education in Puerto Rico from 1902 to 1908. He was secretary of the National Child Labor Committee from 1908 to 1910, executive secretary of Boston University from 1910 to 1913, and dean of the college of business administration at Boston University beginning in 1913.

From Melvin Jack Chisum

New York, N.Y. Mch 21st, 1906

Dear Dr. Washington: I have been thinking of a plan that will give me the freest possible movement and yet keep the name Chisum out of the papers, in case you decide to send me to do the Chicago work.