I do not know that it is a matter of very great consequence whether these judges are appointed by the President or by the Senate of the United States: but as we are dealing with a settled community, a state, a government, full of people, so far as it has gone—not a great number there yet—but there has been a government established for a great many years; they have their system of courts, they have their system of laws, their system of public offices by which we have our courts and our circuit courts, and they are familiar with them, and they felt entirely satisfied with the system they have, and it seemed to the commission and afterwards to the committee that the less we interfered with them the better it was for the people there as well as for the United States generally.

Now, we have had a good deal of talk here from time to time about what is to be done with these islands we have acquired either by cession, by annexation, or by purchase, as some thought at the time, it not being by treaty but by a resolution of Congress, and the Secretary of the Treasury, which we have a commission to do it; and everybody in the Senate and other places, apparently, was alarmed for fear that we would take them in and make them a part of the United States, and put our laws over them, and all that sort of thing. We, as a commission, in the first place felt and believed that the commission there was necessary to consider the ideas of the people of the United States in letting that government alone so far as we could at all consistently with the laws of the United States and the Constitution of the United States, and not interfering with anything there that did not seem absolutely necessary to interfere with.

So founding the supreme court there doing business with just as much dignity, with just as much sense of honor and of duty, and apparently with just as much intelligence as the supreme court of the State of Illinois or of Connecticut, or of any other State. There was nothing in the discussion at all that would justify us in uprooting the supreme court or the circuit courts of the islands and requiring the Government of the United States to meddle with them. So it was the conclusion of the commission and of the committee that as far as that was concerned we ought to leave that alone.

The Senator from Connecticut seems to go upon the idea that we are making a constitution for those people that cannot be done.

The President of the United States, "You appoint all these judges," lest they do something wrong between now and next year or five years from now that ought not to be allowed to be done.

Mr. TELLER. May I ask the Senator from Illinois a question?

Mr. TELLER. Is not that exactly what you do? You overturn the court when you authorize the governor to appoint.

Mr. CULUM. No; we do not in the full sense, because the purpose of the bill is not to turn these men out until their terms expire.

Mr. TELLER. You assume that the governor will reappoint the present judges?

Mr. CULUM. There will be only two to be appointed, so far as the supreme court is concerned, because the chief justice has resigned since this bill has been reported to the Senate.

Mr. TELLER. Does the bill legislate the present judges in office?

Mr. CULUM. It lets them stay there. That is all. It does not legislate them out.

It seems to me, Mr. President, that apparently the fear is overruling; especially in the mind of my friend the Senator from Connecticut, that something is going to be done over there within a month perhaps after this proposed law shall be passed, that will be thoroughly in conflict with the laws and Constitution of the United States, if we allow the governor to appoint. Let him appoint to the Senate that the governor can be removed by the President to the States General. If he fails to do his duty the President can call him down or nominate and appoint somebody else. It seems to me there is no great need or occasion for alarm if the plan shall stand substantially as the commission and the committee report it. I think myself that the provision is a little odd and as to a strict construction of what it means. I am willing that...