



REMARKS OF RAFAEL HERNANDEZ COLON  
GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO  
AT THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONIES OF ROCHE  
PRODUCTS, INC. PLANT IN MANATI, P.R.,  
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1976.

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I was very happy today when I arrived and I saw the structures that have already been raised here on the land. Symbolically, I thought I was coming for a ground breaking and I found that the ground has already been broken. And that you were well advanced with this project. This was a very happy surprise for me because the last time that we met, over a year ago, in the Bankers Club in San Juan, I had a very distinct pleasure in meeting the principals of this company and I walked away with the impression from that luncheon that we had, that something good was going to come out for Puerto Rico and for Hoffman La-Roche. Today I am certain that that has already happened and I am very glad to see that the good things for both of us are on the way. I am very much satisfied with the partnership between Puerto Rico and Hoffman La-Roche. I feel it is an honor for us and a mark of confidence that you have chosen to establish a plant here in Puerto Rico which will be a positive contribution to our economy and to the wealth of the Puerto Rican people.

I have been informed that you will be employing around 500 persons. I understand that 490 are Puertoricans. That is a pretty good ratio. And

also that you will be training our people and making a very valuable investment in them which to us is the, perhaps, the most significant investment that you will be making; the most significant contribution that you will be making to Puerto Rico.

We appreciate this and as I told you in the lunch that we had here at the Bankers Club we are ready to cooperate with you in every way that we can. I have personally told Dr. Jann that if I can be of any assistance at any moment I am ready to do it as I know Fomento and PRIDCO and all the other agencies of the Commonwealth here represented stand ready to assist at this project and help pull it along.

So today I am very happy to find that we are well on the way and wish you the best of everything, the greatest success for the profitability of the enterprise in terms of the company and in terms of Puerto Rico. I appreciate the investment that you are making in our people and the contribution that you are making to our economy and particularly the mark of confidence in Puerto Rico that comes at the right time, at a moment when things are difficult, the world over, as you very well know and we are all trying to move ahead once again. Your determination to establish the plant here comes to us as a matter of satisfaction.

Thank you very much Dr. Jann, Mr. Clark. As I mentioned before we stand ready here to cooperate and to move forward together with you.

Thank you.