

Committed to recovery

As the first of our two front-page stories this week spells out, Gov. Luis Fortuño has no doubt that a recovery of our economy will start in the next few months. In our exclusive interview with the governor, we found him full of confidence.

A combination of an added \$13 billion economic injection into the economy starting now and continuing right through 2010 and into 2011 no doubt can accomplish a jumpstart of our economy. Federal stimulus funds, a return to the bond market, a smaller government and increases in federal funding are behind the governor's enthusiasm. And the governor, certainly over the short term, has reason to be optimistic.

In an exclusive interview with this newspaper prior to his announcing in a general press conference his plan to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs over the coming eight years, Fortuño noted the seeds of economic growth have been planted and now should begin to grow and bloom.

Obviously, it will not be overnight, as years of destruction of our economy cannot be wiped away with one swipe of a magic wand, but we are feeling hopeful that if the global economy continues its turnaround Puerto Rico will follow suit. In the meantime, the next two years should see the economy growing. This will create growth in the private sector, which will be followed by more creation of jobs in the private sector. And once the private sector gets going consumers will start spending and we can get back to a growing economy...something we haven't seen for eight years. ■