

Dr. WIEGMAN. Well, Mr. Chairman, once again we have precedent to fall back on. This is commonly done in numerous states around the Union where the land grant college does enter into some kind of agreement with other institutions of higher learning. I am thinking, for example, of New York, where Cornell University, a land grant college, does have programs with its sister institutions in the state. I see no legal barrier as far as the Morrill Act is concerned to do this. As a matter of fact, we have the precedents.

As far as our own particular act (P.L. 89-791) is concerned which created the two institutions, I see no problem. Maybe Mr. Horsky would like to comment to that to see if there is any kind of legal problem.

Mr. SISK. Actually I wanted to clear this up. It is my understanding that originally the original legislation as introduced in the Senate provided that the Washington Technical Institute would be a land grant college.

Dr. WIEGMAN. Right.

Mr. SISK. Now, then, of course, since that time we have this change here in S. 1999 by the Senate. As I understood from the statement made by Mr. Nelsen, it was found that the Washington Technical Institute could not qualify. I was curious about why the legislation was changed to substitute the Federal City College as a beneficiary of the land grant program. For example, why does the Technical Institute not qualify? Why did it not qualify?

Dr. WIEGMAN. Well, going back to the original Morrill Act of 1862, it mentions in the Act that the college should have a broad Liberal Arts base, because in addition to the technical courses they emphasized continually that person should have a liberal education. This is mentioned in the Morrill Act several times. The Federal City College is the college created by Congress to be a Liberal Arts College in Washington, D.C. It is a four-year institution with graduate programs which we find at all of our land grant colleges. It has the kind of broad base that would allow us to carry out the spirit of the Morrill Act. It would also allow us to enter into kinds of agreements with the Department of Agriculture that only a four-year institution with possibly graduate programs and extension could do. It is just the vehicle that can best carry out the spirit of the Morrill Act.

Mr. SISK. Well, that is fine, Dr. Wiegman. Now, getting back to my original question, because I am sure you gentlemen have studied this, does the present proposed legislation, H.R. 15280, H.R. 15886, and S. 1999, provide ample authority for the sharing of funds by the Federal City College with the Technical Institute. Are you certain of that in your own mind?

Dr. WIEGMAN. We are. Mr. Chairman, we are certain that the history of the Morrill Act, the tradition that has been developed in the 50 States and the kind of assurance that we have given here in the legislative history would be the kind of assurance that the Congress would need, and the kind of assurance that would allow us to cooperate with the Washington Technical Institute and other institutions to enter into yearly a Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr. SISK. You would advance through a Memorandum of Understanding to the Technical Institute?

Dr. WIEGMAN. Yes, sir.