

Mr. SISK. Well, I recognize that you do not have any legislative authority at the present time, but you know we have a habit around here that when the Administration submits a budget, it submits a budget contingent upon Congress passing certain authorizing acts. And sometimes in some of those acts, there are items as in the budget today that we have not even authorized, and I am doubtful that we are going to authorize, but they are still earmarked in the budget for a stipulated amount of funds. I am curious to know at what stage of the game you will ask for funds. Are you going to wait until, let us say, this becomes law? Hopefully we can go ahead soon and move this.

I am not trying to indicate that there is going to be substantial delay, but it seems to me that at some point we should have some pretty good figure in mind as to what you might be able to or expect to come up with.

Now, this estimate of \$100,000 to \$700,000 or \$800,000 of possible funds from the Smith-Lever Act is a pretty wide range.

Dr. RALSTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. SISK. I am not here trying to pin you to the wall.

Dr. RALSTON. Yes, sir, I would just have to say very honestly we have not worked out in detail. As a matter of fact, I am testifying before Mr. Whitten tomorrow afternoon as far as our Smith-Lever Act is concerned. So I think what we will really have to do is perhaps go back through the Department and contact that Committee again so that we are completely in the clear and everybody understands very forthrightly what it is all about.

I would hate at this point in time to really bring it up to the Committee without being more precise about the whole situation right now, and as a matter of fact, we would appreciate any suggestions you might have as to how we might—

Mr. SISK. Well, I appreciate the position you are in, Dr. Ralston. I am not trying to put you on the spot. You may proceed.

Dr. RALSTON. Well, I think the only concluding statement that I will make is that the Department of Agriculture believes that the citizens of the District of Columbia are entitled to the benefits of the Cooperative Extension Service and their programs, particularly 4-H and Home Economics work that are now enjoyed by the 50 states and the territories of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Guam, and we believe that these programs can assist materially in providing much greater fulfillment for the people in the District.

We also believe that the Federal City College as the cooperating institution of higher learning should have the appropriate research and teaching activities to support an effective Cooperative Extension Service.

And let me just make a comment on this. One of the reasons why we would favor the Federal City College is because we believe over time they will be doing the kind of educational teaching and be entering into certain kinds of research work over time which would more directly support the kind of activities Extension will really have to do in the District for it to really be effective. Knowledge is no better than its research because, and this is why we feel this is important.