

(The complete statement of Dr. Ralston follows:)

STATEMENT BY DR. N. P. RALSTON, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, FEDERAL EXTENSION SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, we wish to thank you for the opportunity to meet with this committee to present the U.S. Department of Agriculture's favorable views on H.R. 15280, a bill which amends the District of Columbia Public Education Act that establishes the Federal City College as a Land Grant institution of higher learning. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has jurisdiction over two parts of the amendment with reference to the Act of May 8, 1914 (38 Stat. 372; 7 U.S.C. 341-346, 347a, 348, 349) and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 1087; 7 U.S.C. 1621-1629). The Smith-Lever Act has the greater application.

The bill would authorize the United States Department of Agriculture to make available to residents of the District of Columbia the Cooperative Extension Service's pool of professionally trained leaders for Extension, particularly in home economics, youth work, and in marketing.

The Department of Agriculture has long been one of the world's great institutions of research and education. It has worked cooperatively with numerous Federal agencies, State departments and agencies—specifically those of agriculture, the land-grant universities—and with private organizations, to help equip the best informed, best trained, and most productive agricultural clientele in history. Their proficiency has freed a major percentage of our workers to produce other goods and services that have benefited all people of this country and the world.

Secretary Freeman stated in a recent address, "The Rural Challenge to the Cities", at the 25th Anniversary of Fairleigh-Dickinson University, "Research and education are not enough. The city system should include an urban extension service, made up of trained men and women, who, like the county agent, carry the results of applied research to its actual users—the people who need help. The extension agents would serve in another major fashion. They would report the needs of the people back to local governments and to universities for research and action."

*Smith-Lever Act*

In the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, Congress established the Extension Service, which has been truly a cooperative organization in its mutually beneficial relationship with the States, the universities, and the public. Through its vast network of educational and informational services, the Department has made readily available to all citizens the findings in research (foods, diet and nutrition, marketing, etc.). The result has been that when emergencies have arisen—whether major national conflicts, the great drought of the 1930's, or the more recent advent of mechanization—the leadership and technological know-how of the Extension Service has modified the blow of what otherwise might have been disaster for large areas of the Nation.

Since World War II, the Extension Service, in response to the demands of the people, has been expanding its programs into urban areas. The following quote from the report of the House Appropriations Committee on the Fiscal Year 1968 Agriculture Appropriation Bill is illustrative of this trend: "In view of the many agencies of the Department and the entire Federal Government engaged in community development activities, the Committee feels that the additional funds can be used most effectively in programs which work directly with the youth of this Nation. The wholesome effect of 4-H Club activities has been so beneficial to rural youth that additional efforts to bring 4-H programs to young people in the congested and deprived urban areas of the United States would make an invaluable contribution to the moral, spiritual, and economic strength of this Nation."

*Agricultural Marketing Act*

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 authorizes the promotion through research, studies, experimentation, and cooperation of a scientific approach to marketing, transportation, and distribution of agricultural products. Section 204(b) of that act authorizes the Department to make allotments to State departments of agriculture, State bureaus and departments of marketing, State agricultural experiment stations, and other appropriate State agencies for cooperative projects in marketing service and marketing research. Designating