

**EXTENSION OF MORRILL ACTS TO
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA;
STATEMENTS BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
FORESTRY, UNITED STATES SENATE**

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Agriculture and Forestry, United States Senate by Various

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EXTENSION OF MORRILL ACTS TO DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

STATEMENTS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

UNITED STATES SENATE

ON THE BILL (S. 580) TO AMEND AN ACT ENTITLED
"AN ACT DONATING PUBLIC LANDS TO THE SEVERAL
STATES AND TERRITORIES WHICH MAY PROVIDE
COLLEGES FOR THE BENEFIT OF AGRICULTURE AND
THE MECHANIC ARTS," APPROVED JULY 2, 1862,
AND THE ACTS SUPPLEMENTARY THERETO, SO AS
TO EXTEND THE BENEFITS THEREOF TO THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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EXTENSION OF MORRILL ACTS TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

TUESDAY, January 18, 1910.

The committee met at 10.30 o'clock a. m.

Present: Senators Warren (acting chairman), Burkett, Guggenheim, Page, Crawford, Money, and Chamberlain.

Hon. Henry S. Boutell, Representative in Congress from Illinois; Dr. Charles Willis Needham, president of George Washington University; Harry C. Davis, secretary of the university; Dr. Richard D. Harlan, special representative; Prof. H. L. Hodgkins, dean of the college of engineers; Prof. Betts, of the college of engineers; W. R. Vance, dean of the law department; Dr. W. C. Borden, dean of the medical department; Commissioner Henry B. F. Macfarland, chairman of the board of trustees; John B. Larner, Abram Lisner, Rev. S. H. Greene, John Joy Edson, Hennen Jennings, T. W. Noyes, and A. H. Snow, of the board of trustees of George Washington University;

Also Prof. Kelly Miller, dean of the college of Howard University; Dr. John R. Francis, Whitfield McKinlay, J. H. Stewart, Rev. A. C. Garner, and Dr. J. R. Wilder, representing Howard University; and

Also Thomas S. Hopkins, W. H. Singleton, W. F. Gude, and C. C. Calhoun, of the citizen's committee, and others, appeared.

STATEMENT OF PROF. KELLY MILLER.

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Chairman, I speak in behalf of Howard University. The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Senator Warren). In the interest of Howard University?

Mr. MILLER. Yes, sir.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN. Proceed.

Mr. MILLER. We have two very simple propositions to present.

The first is that this fund ought to apply to the District of Columbia as it does to the other territorial entities of the United States. That question has been fully argued in the press and in the hearing before the House by the George Washington University interest.

The bill, as now drawn, designates the George Washington University as the institution to receive all of this fund. I beg leave to propose an amendment to the bill, which I have drawn, and a copy of which I sent to Senator Dolliver, the chairman of this committee.

In lieu of lines 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, embracing section 2, on page 2, I suggest that you insert:

SEC. 2. That the George Washington University and the Howard University, in the District of Columbia, are hereby designated to receive the appropriations under said acts of Congress, the George Washington University to receive seven-tenths and the Howard University to receive three-tenths of said appropriations: *Provided*, That they shall carry on courses of instruction in agriculture and the mechanic arts and in the other subjects required of the state institutions receiving said appropriations.

Also, in line 18, on page 2, strike out "university" and insert "universities;" in line 1, page 3, strike out "university" and insert

"universities," and in line 2, page 3, strike out "its" and insert "their."

This puts Howard University and George Washington University on the same footing, so far as the two races are concerned in the District of Columbia.

The original Morrill Act of 1862 did not, of course, apply to colored schools, for there were no colored schools in existence at the time. But the enactment of 1890 makes it obligatory that where the races are taught in separate schools this fund shall be distributed equitably between the races.

If the measure before the committee proposed merely to extend the application of this fund to the District of Columbia and not to modify the Morrill Act in any other feature, even without such an amendment as I have proposed, Howard institution, or some other institution for the colored race, would naturally be entitled to its share.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN. I understand that you are a supporter of the bill with the amendment which you offer?

Mr. MILLER. Yes, sir; I am supporting the bill fully, so far as its application to the District of Columbia is concerned.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN. Have you discussed in your own mind the desirability of having somebody designated, as they do in the States, for instance, in this case possibly the District Commissioners? Has that entered your mind at all?

Mr. MILLER. As the George Washington University has already been designated in the bill, I take it for granted that Congress assumed the power and authority to designate the institution for the District of Columbia, and if it designates one of them, it ought to designate the other.

May I be permitted to say in this connection that the question has been raised that Howard University already receives appropriations from Congress? The appropriations which we already receive come to us, not for any local reasons, but for national reasons. The appropriations are not assessed against the taxation of the District of Columbia.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN. The committee understand that, of course. You are connected with Howard University?

Mr. MILLER. Yes, sir.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN. What is your position in the college?

Mr. MILLER. I am dean of the college of arts and sciences.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN. Of the Howard University?

Mr. MILLER. Yes, sir.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN. I think we have your idea from your point of view.

We will now hear Doctor Needham, the president of George Washington University.

STATEMENT OF DR. CHARLES WILLIS NEEDHAM.

Doctor NEEDHAM. Mr. Chairman—

Senator CRAWFORD. May I ask a question or two concerning some matters? I was not present before, and I am not informed.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN. Certainly; proceed.

Senator CRAWFORD. There are just two points. I have not studied this matter before. Is the George Washington University under the care of, or is it promoted and sustained by, any religious organization?

Doctor NEEDHAM. None whatever.

Senator CRAWFORD. What is its history in that respect?

Doctor NEEDHAM. I will tell you. Originally it was organized, in 1821, as an entirely nonsectarian institution. It so happened, however, that the mover of the enterprise or the college was of the Baptist denomination. He was a retired missionary, and there was associated with him a majority of Baptists on the board. That finally grew by an unwritten law to be the character of the institution. The charter provided that it should be nonsectarian. It continued down to the administration of President Whitman; he thought that the fact of its denominational control should be written into the charter, and Congress was asked to amend the charter, and it did so, adopting exactly the phraseology of the Chicago University charter, providing that two-thirds of the board should be Baptists and that the president should be a Baptist.

That continued until 1904, after my administration commenced, when Congress was asked to repeal that law and restore the original reading of the charter, which provides that no religious test shall be applied either to the trustees or professors, or anyone appointed to a position in the university.

To make that declaration a fact as well as a provision of the charter, the personnel of the board was changed in 1904, and now we have not more than six members of any one denomination upon the board. That comes about purely by accident. It so happens that the Baptists have, I think, five, and the Presbyterians have six on the board as it now stands. They have been selected only with a view of not allowing any one denomination to have control. Otherwise, no observation is taken of the question. It is absolutely nonsectarian in control and administration and teaching.

Senator CRAWFORD. Has the institution an endowment?

Doctor NEEDHAM. It has \$130,000 of productive property.

Senator CRAWFORD. For its income is it dependent largely on contributions from that particular denomination, the Baptists?

Doctor NEEDHAM. No; it gets no contributions whatever from the Baptists, as such. It has not for many years.

Senator CRAWFORD. Does it emphasize as one of the particular purposes for which it is in existence the training and education of young men for the ministry, and particularly in the Baptist Church?

Doctor NEEDHAM. Not at all. We have no courses in theology—none whatever.

Senator CRAWFORD. Those are matters I knew nothing about, and I wanted to know.

Doctor NEEDHAM. We have no courses in theology and, of course, no department of theology.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN. Doctor Needham, I am glad the Senator from South Dakota asked the question. I presume he has received, as we all have, a great many communications objecting to this proposed legislation on account of its being, in a sense, a sectarian college, and then again, because it is a private enterprise. In your statement you can cover that ground.

Doctor, if you will permit me, I am going to ask Senator Guggenheim to take the chair, as Senator Burkett and I will have to leave to attend a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations.

(Senator Guggenheim thereupon took the chair as acting chairman.)

Doctor NEEDHAM. Senator, I have prepared an answer to President James's proposition. Perhaps I may give you a copy of it before you go out.

Senator WARREN. Thank you.

Doctor NEEDHAM. I do not know whether Senator Burkett has a copy or not.

Senator CRAWFORD. I shall be obliged to retire in a moment on account of my connection with another committee.

Doctor NEEDHAM. I also have a statement of the needs of the District for this kind of education, which sets forth our action in reference to this work. I do not know whether you have copies of that or not.

Senator CRAWFORD. Personally, I feel that there is merit in the claim that the District should have a part in this education, as well as the rest of the country, but, I confess, with these protests coming in from all over, claiming that this is a sort of a donation to a private school with religious connections and is in a way an invasion of the principle that there should be an entire separation between the Government and religious schools, I have felt as though there might be some ground for that objection.

Doctor NEEDHAM. There is absolutely nothing of the kind and has not been since 1904. May I read you a clause from the charter upon that point?

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That persons of every religious denomination shall be capable of being elected trustees; nor shall any person, either as president, professor, tutor, or pupil, be refused admittance into said college, or denied any of its privileges, immunities, or advantages for or on account of his sentiments in matters of religion.

To carry that out and make it, as I said before, absolutely a fact, the personnel of the board was changed in 1904, and it has been kept entirely free from any denominational control. We have 21 members and, as I said, only 6 of any one denomination, and the 6 are of another denomination than the one which had control of it originally. The rest of the membership of the board is divided between all of the other denominations, including the Hebrews. We have a Hebrew representative on the board. The idea has prevailed to make it a thoroughly representative institution of the District. The argument in favor of the change was that we could not possibly maintain it unless there was a unity or a uniting of all the forces here in the District of Columbia, and in order to do that there must be a complete and perfect representation, no one denomination having control.

That is absolutely the fact, Senator. There is not the slightest denominational control or influence either in the board or in the teaching force. They are all represented.

I do not know whether I am expected to continue what I have to say upon this subject. Perhaps, as I am on my feet, I might just as well say what I want to say with reference to it, if it is satisfactory to the committee for me to do so.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Senator Guggenheim). Quite so. Proceed.

Doctor NEEDHAM. First, there are, as was suggested by Senator Burkett and the acting chairman of the committee, two distinct

questions. The first is, Shall the District of Columbia, as a geographic territory of the United States, receive the benefits of the Morrill Act?

We have here in the District a peculiar condition. I do not come here claiming rights, but stating our equities. The District of Columbia has no industries or commercial enterprises that increase its wealth or furnish occupation for young men. It is a place kept expressly for the Government, and the only employments here are in connection with the government service, except those employments which relate to those enterprises which furnish the people with their food and clothing and some luxuries. Those employments, of course, are of a very minor character. The employments which are profitable and attractive to young men in the professions, in engineering and the mechanic arts, are entirely closed to them here. If they would secure occupation along those lines, they must go out into the States, as many of them do. If they go out without special training, they go out handicapped, because in the States they have institutions of learning which are giving instruction along these lines of the very highest order.

It has been suggested that possibly these men might go into the States to get their education. I want to show you, if I can, that it is utterly impossible for the great body of them to do so.

You may divide these men into two classes. First, there are the children of the men who are in government employ, men in the army and navy and in the civil service of the United States. It is a fair estimate to say that we have here a white population of 140,000 people who are dependent wholly upon salaries for their living. They are receiving, as you very well know, very moderate salaries. I suppose the average salary of government clerks would not be over \$1,500. An investigation by the Board of Trade of Washington last year places the average at about \$1,200 per year in the classified civil service. When you consider that to send a boy away to college costs anywhere from \$600 to \$1,000 you will see that it is almost impossible for a man on such a salary to send his son to college. Not more than 10 per cent of the heads of families here who are upon salaries can afford to do it, while the great 90 per cent of the men in the government employ are utterly unable to send their sons away to college or to these technical schools.

These people are of a very high grade. They are educated men and women, all of them. They come here into the civil service, and into the ranks of the army and navy, with special preparation and education themselves. Their children, therefore, are of an exceptionally good grade as student material. Their parents are very anxious that they should have a technical and college education. If they can not get it in the District of Columbia, they can not get it at all.

About two-thirds of the student body in the District of Columbia (I am speaking generally now; it applies to our own institution) is composed of young men who are here as secretaries to Senators, Congressmen, committees, judicial and executive officers, and in the departments of the Government. They are men who have a part of their time at their disposal and who are very desirous of completing their education and fitting themselves for professional life. Those men, it is apparent at once, could not leave the District of Columbia

and go to any other institution to secure their education without giving up their positions. If they get any education at all, they must get it in the District of Columbia.

The body of students thus employed in the District of Columbia, I should say, numbers from 2,500 to 3,000. We have about a thousand of this class in our institution, and of the other class of which I first spoke about 500, making about 1,500 in all.

I want to say a word regarding these young men, because I speak for them more than I do for the organization, certainly far more than I do for myself. These young men are of a very high order. Those in such employ as I have mentioned come here because they are picked men from their districts and States. They have been selected by their Representatives who have aided them in getting these positions, or given them their positions as secretaries, because they are of a high order of men, men of good attainments, men of sincerity of purpose. It has been the remark of many teachers whom we have brought here from other institutions that they never have come in contact with a body of students so serious minded as the body of students they meet in our university.

I suppose it is fair to say that there are three classes of students in all universities. There is, first, the boy who is sent. The father and mother want him to have a college education, and they send him to college. Perhaps he does not want to go, but he has to go. Another class is composed of men who are desirous of securing a degree in order that they may enter into the fraternal and social relations which are limited to graduates of colleges.

Those two classes of students form the poorest class of students in any college. I speak now from the academic standpoint, of course. They choose the easy courses, and seek only to get through as best they can and as quick as they can to a degree.

The third class form the great body of men in all colleges, who are of the greatest value to it, and that is the boys who come, who want an education, who are willing to make sacrifices to get it, who will work their way through if necessary, and will give all the time and labor that is necessary to secure thorough discipline and as much knowledge as possible. Those men constitute the flower and the fruit of every institution.

I undertake to say, therefore, that among the body of students we have in the District of Columbia we have a much larger percentage of that third class than can be found in almost any other institution, because two-thirds of our men are men who are here working their way through. They are here for the purpose of securing an education, and they are willing to work hard for it.

We put them to a test which demonstrates this beyond any question, I think. After studying the situation over when I came to the presidency, and while I was dean of the law school studying the question there, I became satisfied that men who are giving only a part of their time should devote more years to their work in order that we might put in the best kind of training, adopt the best methods of teaching, maintain our class work at good grade, and increase the value of our degrees. The result was, after very careful consideration by the faculty and the board of trustees, that it was determined that the three years' course in law for the bachelor of laws degree should be increased to four years for men who could give only a part of their