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CARVER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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HEARING
BEFORE THE
SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION
ON
H.R. 6425

A BILL TO DIRECT THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
TO ASSIST IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CARVER
MEMORIAL LIBRARY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HEARING HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AUGUST 22, 1961

Printed for the use of the Committee on Education and Labor

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CARVER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1961

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to call, in room 100-B, George Washington Inn, Hon. Frank Thompson, Jr. (chairman of the subcommittee), presiding.

Present: Representatives Frank Thompson, Jr., and Dave Martin.

Also present: Mary E. Corbin, subcommittee clerk.

Mr. THOMPSON. The Select Subcommittee on Education will hear this morning testimony with regard to the bill, H.R. 6425, by our colleague and member of the Committee on Education and Labor, Mr. Roosevelt.

(H.R. 6425 is as follows:)

[H.R. 6425, 87th Cong., 1st sess.]

A BILL To direct the Commissioner of Education to assist in the establishment of a Carver Memorial Library, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$250,000 to enable the Commissioner of Education to assist the George Washington Carver Memorial Institute in the establishment of a Carver Library of Negro History in the vicinity of the George Washington Carver National Monument. The Commissioner of Education shall grant the funds appropriated under this Act to such institute upon receipt of assurances satisfactory to him that such funds will be used in the construction of a library, and related facilities, which will be operated on a nonprofit basis as a library primarily devoted to the history of the Negro race and related purposes.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Roosevelt, we are pleased to have you and you may proceed as you wish.

STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES ROOSEVELT, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. ROOSEVELT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I welcome this opportunity to appear before you to present a statement in support of H.R. 6425, a bill which I introduced in the House. This bill would direct the Commissioner of Education to assist in the establishment of a library, and related facilities, to be operated on a nonprofit basis. The library would be devoted to the collection of materials on the history of the Negro race and related purposes.

The library is intended to be a memorial to George Washington Carver. It will be constructed in the vicinity of the George Washington Carver National Monument near Diamond Grove, Mo., Dr.

Carver's birthplace. I am hopeful that the construction may be commenced early enough to allow for completion in time to commemorate the George Washington Carver Centennial in 1964.

Mr. Chairman, I think it might be of interest to the committee to know that this is certainly a bipartisan bill in every respect. I believe the committee has in its files letters from ex-President Hoover and ex-President Eisenhower and ex-President Truman supporting this legislation and I am sure if the committee wishes, it will be able to get a letter from the present President of the United States, although I have not visited him and solicited a letter up to this time.

This proposal has the full and enthusiastic support of the George Washington Carver Memorial Institute for the Advancement of Art, Science, and Education. Mrs. Mallie Robinson is national chairman of the institute, and Mr. Robert D. Hobday is president. Mr. William Randolph Hearst, Jr., the noted newspaper publisher, wrote of Mr. Hobday:

* * * I do know that Robert D. Hobday, the president of the George Washington Carver Institute, is a deserving gentleman, and if there were some way that our Federal Government could, somehow, through him, aid in the establishment of a memorial to George Washington Carver, our papers would favor the project.

Another noted gentleman, a distinguished citizen of Independence, Mo., in communications to me, acknowledged that he thinks the library is a good idea and is as happy as can be that the Carver memorial is going ahead. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I hope that you will agree with former President Truman.

Another communication relevant to this matter was addressed to me by Mr. A. P. Marshall, university librarian, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Mo. I quote in part:

Having talked to several faculty members and to librarians about the proposal, I found them thinking as I—strongly in favor of it * * *

We think that the proposed library would supplement other such collections which, outside of Washington, are all in the South. Such a collection would be a boon to the Northwestern part of our State and possibly serve as a center for the Southwest section of our Nation. Many manuscripts and letters are possibly lying around simply because no one has bothered to collect them for posterity.

Mr. Chairman, may I supply for the record at this time a letter from Mr. Paxton P. Price, State librarian of the Missouri State Library?

Mr. THOMPSON. Without objection it will be entered into the record at this point.

(The letter referred to follows:)

MISSOURI STATE LIBRARY,
Jefferson City, Mo., August 15, 1961.

HON. JAMES ROOSEVELT,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. ROOSEVELT: This is to endorse and support your H.R. 6425 for the purpose of building and establishing the Carver Library of Negro History. As the eminent Mr. Carver was internationally known primarily for his scientific scholarship, this is a move to erect a fitting tribute to him that should successfully materialize.

Sincerely yours,

PAXTON P. PRICE, *State Librarian.*

Mr. ROOSEVELT. A letter from Mr. Gene Martin, president, Missouri Library Association, reiterates the sentiment of the earlier letters. The relevant portion reads:

In behalf of the Missouri Library Association, I would like to express our interest and support in behalf of this legislation * * * The establishment of such a library would be a noteworthy cultural and educational achievement. It is fitting, also, that it should bear the name of a man who has done much for his own race and for all Americans as well.

These expressions of support from eminent and knowledgeable people are indicative of the sentiment favoring this proposal.

George Washington Carver is a name familiar to every schoolchild and renowned throughout the land. However, as we grow older, the remarkable exploits of this outstanding American grow somewhat vague in our memory. I would like to briefly recall to your minds the highlights of Carver's life and of his almost unbelievable feats.

Born the son of slave parents, George Washington Carver was orphaned at a very early age and then raised until the age of 10 by the Moses Carver family, the former owners of his deceased mother. Carver eventually made his way to Kansas where he worked his way through high school, and then to Iowa where he obtained bachelor of science and master of science degrees from Iowa State College. At a later date he received an honorary doctor of science from Simpson College in Iowa. After completing his studies at Iowa State College, he was elected to the faculty of that school.

In 1896, at the invitation of Booker T. Washington, he became director of the Department of Agricultural Research at Tuskegee Institute. It was from this point in his career that Dr. Carver carried on a succession of astonishing experiments, especially, as you will recall, with peanuts. He developed nearly 300 substances, of an unbelievable variety and utility, from this plant. Milk, butter, cheese, coffee, soap, shaving lotion, ink, and cosmetics are only a few of these substances. From the sweetpotato he developed 118 products of an equally amazing diversity and usefulness and 32 new food creations. From other indigenous substances he produced dyes, paints, marble, and other products which have come to have a highly important place in our national economy. Dr. Carver's efforts have resulted in the creation of numerous new methods of earning a living and have materially benefited countless persons in every area of the world, but most particularly in our own Southeast.

In 1935 Dr. Carver was made collaborator in the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

He was made a member of the Royal Society of Arts, London, in 1917; awarded the Spingarn Medal in 1923 and, in 1939, the Roosevelt Medal.

In January of 1943, Dr. Carver died in Tuskegee, Ala., at the age of 79. In 1964 there will be commemorated the 100th anniversary of his birth—the George Washington Carver Centennial.

The enormous impact and beneficent effect that Dr. Carver's research has had on our Nation's economy is only overshadowed by the pervasive influence upon generations of Americans of his great personal attainments—it is an integral part of our great national folklore.

Here was a man who rose from the combined misfortunes of slavery and orphanhood to the pinnacle of professional success, individual

achievement, and national honor; a man whose life has taken on the quality of a legend; a success story to stimulate the aspirations of multitudes to strive to raise themselves from humble beginnings and to contribute to the progress of mankind. George Washington Carver was a great credit to his Nation and to humanity.

Now, almost a hundred years after the birth of this gentleman, requests are building up seeking the establishment of a Carver Memorial Library near his birthplace. I, therefore, urge favorable consideration and early enactment by the Congress of H.R. 6425 to establish the memorial library to honor this great man and to perpetuate his memory with a valuable addition to our educational and cultural life.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Roosevelt, for a splendid statement. The bill is a very brief one and most uncomplicated, happily. I would not anticipate any difficulty with it. I am sure that everyone recognizes the real greatness of Dr. Carver. He was, in fact, one of the giants of his age throughout the world, and I can say that it is most fitting that on the centennial of his birth that he be appropriately remembered.

I can think of no better way than the establishment of something which really lives in the form of a library.

I congratulate you for introducing this fine legislation.

Mr. Martin?

Mr. MARTIN. That is a very fine statement, Mr. Roosevelt.

I have no questions.

Mr. ROOSEVELT. Thank you very much.

Mr. THOMPSON. Our next witness is Dr. Robert D. Hobday, president of the George W. Carver Memorial Institute of Hollywood, Calif.

Dr. Hobday, have a seat and make yourself comfortable and proceed in any way that you choose.

STATEMENT OF DR. ROBERT D. HOBDAY, PRESIDENT, GEORGE W. CARVER MEMORIAL INSTITUTE, HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

Mr. HOBDAY. I should like to take this opportunity to read a letter from Mrs. Mallie Robinson, the mother of Jackie Robinson, the famous baseball player, and the mother of Mack Robinson who ran second to Jessie Owens in the 1936 Olympics.

This woman came to California from Georgia where she got a job as a domestic and where she worked for 15 years.

Jackie was a star football player at UCLA and Mack went to the University of Oregon and made the 1936 Olympic team.

Now let me say that she was in such dire straits that she had to go on relief. Jackie came home one day and found the relief inspector there and he said "Mother, do you have to go through all this again?" She said, "Yes."

Now he immediately went to the phone and called a next-door friend and had this friend call the Kansas City Monarchs to tell them that he would come and play baseball with the team if they would wire him \$1,000.

Well, to make a long story short they wired him \$1,000 and he left \$800 with his mother.

Now the letter from his mother is addressed to you, gentlemen, and I quote it:

MY DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: As my infirmities and my 73 years prevent me from making the trip and appearing before your honorable committee, I wish to offer the following statement. It has been my pleasure to have served as national chairman of this institute for the past 14 years without salary or remuneration or without receiving expenses of any kind whatsoever.

Dr. Hobday and myself and our associates have spent many years in building up an international reputation for this institute.

Dr. Carver, in my opinion, is a most valuable asset to our national reputation and existence. He is better known throughout the world, four-fifths of which is black, brown, yellow, or red, than any other American. This institute, by keeping his name alive, by observing annually his birthday, by giving the Gold Award each year, establishing scholarships and educational libraries, has caused the world to realize that we do honor our famous scientists, regardless of race, color, or creed.

Please let me assure you, Mr. Chairman, and your honorable committee, that in my humble opinion the establishment of this Carver Memorial Library can be of invaluable service and benefit to our Nation and our people, reaching as it does, people in most every country on this earth, and spreading good will and understanding to all throughout the world.

The Carver Memorial Library will always work in harmony and agreement with our Department of State and the true principles of Americanism.

Please believe me.

Most sincerely,

MALLIE ROBINSON, *National Chairman.*

Now let me say that I have just returned, gentlemen, from a trip to 14 countries in Africa. I was a guest of Haile Selassie in the palace. I rode a mule for 20 miles up into the mountains to attend a wedding of an Ethiopian farmer.

I made a trip to the interior of Ghana which is one of the slave centers of Africa. There is still a large number of slaves being sold in manacles to the Arabs, even in Ethiopia some of the wild tribes are taking the slaves over the border.

I slept in the jungles and took a riverboat down the Nile River. This was my third trip to Africa. Let me say that the poorest Negro in Mississippi is 90 percent better off than the Negro in Africa. They had no laboratories or medical facilities. They are barefooted and illiterate and there isn't a single government there that isn't a dictatorship.

For a thousand dollars you can take your camera and make a shot of the Negroes here driving up to the supermarkets and the Negro colleges and the schools and living in the beautiful residential districts which could be shown to those people to enlighten them.

Let me say it can be the same way here. You can go to Africa and take pictures of the way most of them are living over there and show the film here and do a lot to offset this propaganda that the Russians are propounding.

I visited Russia in 1929 and came back here when Mr. Hoover was chairman of a committee, the name of which escapes me at the moment, and we broadcasted throughout the United States the dangers and effects of communism. That went on for 3½ years.

I was also a Republican candidate for Congress from the 15th District of California.

Let me state also that we have bipartisan support here from three ex-Presidents of the United States. The establishment of this library will have a tremendous effect on the world because the Carver Memorial Library will be known throughout the world because we will issue

bulletins and send books on the Negro history and create scholarships. I am assured of a good deal of support from a good many people financially, if this goes through.

Our objective is to teach patriotism; to teach the love of country; to make Americans proud to be Americans; to make Negroes proud to be Negroes. Negroes know their history. They know they built the pyramids. They also know that the black people conquered Egypt in 1643 B.C. They also know that 18 Pharaohs of Egypt were black. They also remember that the 12th Cavalry was at San Juan Hill when Teddy Roosevelt charged up there and they saved him from annihilation. The white man doesn't know anything about the Negroes' history and we are making an effort to inform the white man about the Negroes' history and to show them that they were enslaved by their own people.

It was the Negro chiefs and kings who put them in pens and sold them to the white man and to the Arabs for a bottle of rum or a bolt of calico. It was not the white man who captured him.

When we teach that to the Negro it removes from the Negroes' mind the idea and the feeling of inferiority due to having been slaves of the Negroes and it lets the white man know that these Negroes were not captured by him by their own people and lets the Negro know and see the forms of the prejudice that goes on in the world. It is not well to have 20 million people dissatisfied in this world today. The Russians have done everything on earth to destroy the American Negro's love for his country. But they have not succeeded. The Negro is not communistic. He likes fine things and he remembers that he was in slavery here for a number of years but has never welcomed communism.

I most humbly request this committee to give serious consideration and approve this bill because it will be a wonderful thing for America and you will find that the Carver Institute will take a great part in the life of this country and will be of tremendous benefit to establishing a love of country and a feeling of respect for America throughout the world.

Thank you very much, gentlemen.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you, for your fine statement.

Mr. Martin?

Mr. MARTIN. Is any money going to be raised from private sources to assist in this construction?

Mr. HOBDAV. No, there won't be any money from private sources.

Mr. MARTIN. How are you going to operate it?

Mr. HOBDAV. I will tell you that at the British Museum and the Louvre and the Metropolitan Museum all have coffee shops and tearooms. You have the Carver Memorial Farm where we built the monument to Dr. Carver. They had nothing there. When this ground was purchased by the Government, and the Government calls these national parks and national monuments, we gave them a beautiful monument of Dr. Carver that cost \$5,000.

The old farmhouse was the only thing there for years. The entrance to the Carver Monument is where we will have this library. There is no food in the Carver Monument. You have to travel 15 miles for anyone to get a sandwich or a cup of coffee except for a little gas station 3 miles away.

We plan to have this little tearoom there and also to sell little statues of Dr. Carver and other mementoes. We will have a wishing well and people can drop something in and we look for enough revenue to come from that source alone as about 70,000 people visit it annually and it is increasing every year.

Again, there is no place that they can get a sandwich or a cup of coffee. They can drop a nickel or a dime in the coke machine and get a bottle of coke but that is all. They don't want to engage in any controversy regarding food service. There is no place you can get food. They won't let a Negro sit down in that part of the country. If a Negro comes in and wants something to eat, he cannot get it. But we do plan to have this coffee shop there which will be a very profitable operation.

We also have a motion picture of Dr. Carver's life and of which we had 100 prints made and sent all over the world. They have been shown in almost every country on the face of the earth.

We also plan to have a machine where you can drop in 10 cents and see Dr. Carver speak and talk. There will be quite a revenue from that source.

Let me say that I draw no salary. I am a wounded soldier and get a pension from the Government and have a little private income. I have never drawn any salary from this institute, but my reward has been the labor of love you might say.

Let me also tell you that Mr. Jackie Robinson came before your House Un-American Activities Committee when Paul Robeson stepped to the front and wanted to influence the people of this Nation. He got up before your committee and said "We don't approve of Paul Robeson. The Negroes fought for their country in the last war." Jackie Robinson is a fine, noble man and as our Republican member on the committee knows he supported Mr. Nixon in the last election and his mother was for Mr. Kennedy.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you, Dr. Hobday.

Mr. HOBDAY. I would like at this time the honor and pleasure of introducing to you Mr. J. A. Rogers, the world famous historian who is a member of the Paris Society of Anthropology, the Academy of Political Association, the American-British Associations for Science, and has been decorated by 10 or 15 governments of the world and has written a column for the Pittsburgh Courier for about 20 years and was war correspondent for the Pittsburgh Courier during the Ethiopian campaign.

He is also the author of 15 books and is recognized as the outstanding authority on early African civilization and Negro history in the world today.

Mr. THOMPSON. Fine.

Mr. Rogers, we welcome you here and please feel free to testify as you wish.

STATEMENT OF J. A. ROGERS, CORRESPONDENT, PITTSBURGH COURIER, NEW YORK, N.Y.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, gentlemen, for allowing me to appear here today.

After hearing Mr. Roosevelt's fine article, I thought the best thing I could do is to give you some of the things that were said about Carver and his work. This happens to be one of my books.

The Royal Society of London, England, first honored him by electing him to membership. He was the winner of the Spingarn Medal and one of the three winners of the Theodore Roosevelt Medal for distinguished service in 1939.

He was awarded the plaque by the International Architects, Engineers, and Chemists. He received the annual award of the variety clubs of America in 1940 with a stipend of \$1,000.

He was also on the honor roll in the Hall of Fame at the New York World's Fair in 1940 and was named Man of the Year in 1942 by the Progressive Farm Journal and given the Thomas A. Edison Award in 1943. He also received honorary degrees from more than 11 universities, and 9 of them white universities. His life story was featured in a Metro-Goldwyn motion picture and more than 70 schools and institutions and societies have been named after him.

Mahatma Gandhi honored him for devising a special vegetarian diet.

Speaking of the contribution he made with the camouflage during the war, the British Parliament said "When the war is over we should give especial thanks to Dr. Carver."

Sir. Harry Johnson, famous colonial administrator and world traveler, mentioned him in two of his books. Sir Harry said of him in 1910:

No one I ever met in the New World taught me so much about plant distribution in North and South America.

Again, Sir Harry wrote in his biography:

An absolute Negro, but in the cut of his clothes, the accent of his speech, the soundness of his science, he could be a professor at Cambridge.

He further said:

It is a great loss to this country that we have no one like him for England.

At the time of his death on January 5, 1943, the dailies of the United States eulogized him in columns of editorials. The New Orleans States said of him:

Dr. George Washington Carver was born of the wonders of this age; his career is astounding. This Negro, born a slave, to slave parents whose immediate forebears came fresh from the jungles of Africa, and became one of the foremost scientists of his time.

President Roosevelt said of him that the world had lost one of its most imminent figures and that the race from which he sprang lost an outstanding member in the passing away of Dr. Carver. He said that all mankind was the beneficiary of his discoveries in the field of agriculture and chemistry.

I count it a great privilege to have met Dr. Carver and to have talked to him on the occasion of my visit to his institute which was the scene of his long and distinguished labors.

I happen to know Dr. Carver very well. I visited him in Tuskegee, Ala., in 1927 and he took me down into his laboratory. He showed me that he was making artificial rubber. I remember this was in 1927. I said, "What will we use this for since we have an abundance of natural rubber?"

Well anyway, the war came and artificial rubber became a necessity and Dr. Carver came into his own.

The U.S. Congress has honored him by naming January 5 as Carver Day.

He was a man of great sacrifice. He had an offer from Edison with a sum in the six figures to get him to their laboratory, but he refused. He said his job was in Tuskegee to educate people there.

I am in the newspaper business and I come in touch with a lot of people on this. There is a lot of animosity being built up against the white people in America because I come in touch with this and know what the people say. I know that about five or six groups are engaged in that, especially with the rise of Africa. But there are those who believe in the brotherhood of man and who believe that all Americans should stand together, especially in the crisis of this time. Those people say that whatever we can do to get Americans united is splendid. And I believe that this Carver Library will at least show these people that the United States recognizes the greatness of this man and will do something to give others inspiration and courage to carry on.

The young Negroes of today do not remember the hard times. I remember the times when things were very, very tough. I had been through it myself. It was all that I could do to carry on because of the fact that I believed in the wonderful mess of humanity and I could not hate the white people as I had met a lot of good white people, that I carried on. I met a lot of good white southerners. Frankly, I have been amazed at some of the southerners I have met. But these are the people that we want to develop and let these people know that there are good in both the white and colored races and I feel the Carver Library will convince a lot of these captives that the white people in America are really their friends which they are, and I believe it will benefit the whole country.

The things have changed greatly in the last 50 years in America for the Negro. I remember here in Washington, D.C., where you could not eat downtown. The Negro had to go uptown. But things are somewhat different today and they are improving all the time. I feel that this memorial will foster that movement.

Thank you, gentlemen, for your kindness in receiving me.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you, very much, Mr. Rogers for your effort in coming here.

Mr. HOBDA. I would like to introduce Mr. Marshall R. Diggs, former Comptroller of the Currency and our counsel for 20 years.

Mr. THOMPSON. We will be pleased to hear from Mr. Diggs.

STATEMENT OF MARSHALL R. DIGGS, ESQ., WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. DIGGS. I will be very brief, Mr. Chairman.

Having been born in the South and raised in the Southwest in Oklahoma when it was a new territory and having lived in the town where colored people were not allowed to even spend the night, I think I know something of the problem. My feeling all along has been that here is a way to try to combat these problems that we are having and that is the reason I have been interested in this.

It seems to me that this is one way and one step that can be taken to educate and to let both the white and the colored people know what man has done and what others can do. That has been my undertaking in this. We have never solicited any funds at all. We have just gone ahead with the people who have donated their money and time to keep this project going.

Mr. THOMPSON. It is my understanding you served as a counsel?

Mr. DIGGS. That is right.

Mr. THOMPSON. That is very commendable. We appreciate your coming here.

Mr. DIGGS. I just wanted to say my word for this.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you.

Mr. Martin.

Mr. MARTIN. No questions.

Mr. THOMPSON. Our next witness will be Dr. Norman D. Stevens, acting director of the Founders Library of the Howard University.

**STATEMENT OF DR. NORMAN D. STEVENS, ACTING DIRECTOR,
FOUNDERS LIBRARY, HOWARD UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON,
D.C.**

Mr. STEVENS. I have a statement that I have prepared with considerable assistance from Mrs. Dorothy B. Furter, supervisor of the Negro collection, Founders Library, of Howard University.

Without having considerably more information about the background of the proposal to establish a Carver Library of Negro History in the vicinity of the George Washington Carver National Monument, and about the scope and purposes of the intended library, it is extremely difficult to make any but the most general comments about it. On the basis solely of the information contained in the proposed bill, however, there are several questions which might be raised.

First of all it should be pointed out that there are already a number of special collections dealing with the Negro and Negro history. Among the larger collections are the Moorland Foundation at Howard University which contains about 30,000 items; the Schomburg collection at the New York Public Library which reported a book stock of 33,596 items as of June 30, 1960; and the Henry P. Slaughter and Countee Cullen memorial collections at Atlanta University which now number about 25,000 items.

A recent survey of 12 Negro colleges and universities indicated that 10 of them had special collections on the Negro ranging in size from the 80,000 items at Howard down to a collection of 600 volumes at Delaware State College. An article in 1959 listed 30 libraries with collections relating to Negro history; and, of course, numerous other libraries throughout the country have material on this subject although it may not be organized into a collection which is especially designated as such.

The proposed Carver Library of Negro History would not then by any means be unique but would probably, to a large degree, duplicate existing collections.

Since one of the major goals of American libraries today is the effective utilization of our national library resources, any proposal to develop another special collection in an area in which there are other libraries striving to develop adequate collections should be discouraged.

Secondly, the question of the scope of the proposed library, and possible sources of material, should be considered. The Moorland Foundation, which deals with Negro life and history, was established in 1914 by the gift of Dr. Jesse E. Moorland of more than 3,000 books, pamphlets, and related material dealing with the Negro.

Today it contains over 40,000 cataloged books on and by the Negro and an almost equal number of periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, photographs, musical compositions, recordings, microfilms, historical curios, and other ephemeral pieces.

Much of the collection has been acquired by gift, and during the past few years we have been spending only between \$3,000 and \$5,000 a year for materials for that collection.

It should be pointed out, also, that we have now begun to concentrate more of our efforts on Africa, and much of our current expenditure is for material in that area. Unless the proposed Carver Library is to go in heavily for materials on Africa, which incidentally is an area in which numerous American university and research libraries are currently developing extensive programs, rather than on the Negro in America and general background material, it might encounter serious difficulties in acquiring material.

It would be helpful to know if there are extensive private collections that have been offered, or are available, to the proposed library either for purchase or as gifts.

Much of the printed material in this field is out of print and difficult, if not impossible, to obtain through normal channels.

In addition much of the more valuable manuscript material is already held by libraries. Many manuscripts, for example, which one might expect to form the basis for a Carver Library of Negro History, are in the library at Tuskegee Institute.

The proposed library could perhaps go in for an extensive program of microfilming materials held by other special collections on the Negro, and by other libraries, but while this would be of value in bringing all of this material together and in the preservation of valuable material, it would be of very limited value as the chief basis for a collection.

Finally there is the question of the location of this proposed library. First of all is the location of any outstanding significance to the Negro people? Is it of any greater significance than the birthplace, or home, of any of the outstanding Negro leaders? Is it of as great a significance and importance as institutions such as Tuskegee Institute, or any of the outstanding Negro colleges and universities in this country?

In any case, it is my feeling that specialized library collections in any area are of much greater value when they are attached to an institution that is doing research in that area, than when they are separate entities, for then they are more immediately available to the potential users.

In this particular case the question of location from the point of view of the users is of utmost importance. The location is rather remote and not readily accessible. Certainly this library would not be accessible to students in any great numbers. There is probably not a large reading community in the immediate vicinity which would make use of the collection.

Except for unusual items that might be placed on exhibit, the casual tourist whom one expects to find visiting a national monument would have little interest in it.

There remains only the serious scholar and research worker for whom the location is not, in most cases, very convenient but who would be forced to travel there to make use of the collection if it contained material not available elsewhere. Already, as was pointed out,

scholars in this field have to use a number of collections in widely scattered locations and to start another collection, away from those that already exist, would only add to their burden.

In brief, on the basis of the general information available regarding this proposed library, it would not seem to be a feasible project since there are already a number of outstanding special collections dealing with Negro history, since much of the basic material is not readily available, and since the proposed location is one which might well prove inconvenient for the intended users.

If the intent of this proposal is to provide information and knowledge on the Negro and his role in American history, there are several alternatives that would seem to be more feasible. One would be to establish a museum dealing with Negro life and history since there is no extensive collection of this sort already, and since this would be of greater interest than a library to the casual tourist.

A second alternative would be to assist existing specialized collections in organizing, publicizing, and making available to students and scholars what they now possess.

A third alternative would be to make available general books and materials on the Negro, and his place in American society, to public, school, college, and university libraries throughout the country, but particularly in areas in which there is a large Negro population, in order to help bring about a better understanding of our present day problems.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you, very much, Dr. Stevens.

I want to thank all of you gentlemen who have appeared today. This will conclude our hearing.

(Whereupon, at 10:50 a.m., the subcommittee recessed.)

