

TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION OF PORTION OF ANACOSTIA PARK

APRIL 14, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. ELLIOTT, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2853]

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to which was referred the bill (S. 2853) to authorize the transfer to the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia of a certain portion of the Anacostia Park for use as a tree nursery, having duly considered the same, hereby make report of it to the House and with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

The need for this legislation is fully explained in the following letter from the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, which is made a part of this report:

COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, February 2, 1926.

HON. RICHARD N. ELLIOTT,
Chairman Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

SIR: The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have the honor to submit the following report on H. R. 8470, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session, entitled "A bill authorizing the transfer to the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia of a certain portion of the Anacostia Park for use as a tree nursery," which you sent to them on January 28, 1926, for their recommendation.

The bill was introduced at the request of the commissioners. The object of the proposed legislation is to authorize and direct the transfer of a certain portion of the Anacostia Park to the District of Columbia as a site for a tree nursery. This site is located upstream from Bolling Field, and contains approximately 35 acres of land. The inclosed map will give the approximate location of the site with reference to its surroundings.

The commissioners are now occupying this site temporarily under the authority of a permit granted by the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army. At the present time a great number of young trees are growing in seed beds and in the nursery rows. With the improvements that have been made, the District has here an investment of approximately \$20,000. The land has been fenced

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in, a water main installed, roads constructed, the land cultivated, and a shed and barn erected.

The commissioners wish to emphasize the fact that they have been forced to abandon two nursery sites in recent years at a sacrifice of many fine trees. In the meantime the tree system has not progressed as it should, and the situation is such as to warrant the belief that something effective must be done if the work of this department of the District government is not to retrograde. What the commissioners desire and what is absolutely necessary, if the tree system is to keep pace with the growth of the District of Columbia, is a permanent nursery site, where trees may be propagated with assurance that the investment will not be unproductive.

A bill similar to the one herewith (S. 932, 68th Cong.) was passed by the Senate on January 13, 1924, but did not become a law.

The proposed permanent transfer of this site to the jurisdiction of the commissioners has the approval of the former Secretary of War and a former Chief of Engineers, and also has the approval of the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, a copy of whose letter agreeing to this transfer is inclosed.

Very respectfully,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
By CUNO H. RUDOLPH, *President*.

H. R. 8470, mentioned in the letter of the Board of Commissioners, contains exactly the same language as S. 2853.

It will be noted that if this bill is enacted into law the title to the property described will still remain in the Government, and the purpose of this measure is merely to transfer this land to the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia for tree-nursery purposes.

S. 2853 has the approval of the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital. His report on this proposition is as follows:

OFFICE OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND
PUBLIC PARKS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL,
February 2, 1926.

Hon. R. N. ELLIOTT,
*Chairman Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR MR. ELLIOTT: I have your letter of January 28, 1926, requesting recommendations regarding H. R. Bill No. 8470, "authorizing the transfer to the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia of a certain portion of the Anacostia Park for use as a tree nursery."

This bill was submitted by the commissioners with the concurrence of this office and it is our recommendation that it pass. The establishment of a permanent site for tree nursery purposes under the control of the District Commissioners is considered highly desirable.

Very truly yours,

U. S. GRANT, 3d, *Director*.