

DEVELOPMENT OF PARK AND PLAYGROUND SYSTEM OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

APRIL 23, 1926.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. ZIHLMAN, from the committee of conference, submitted the
following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 8830]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 8830) amending the act entitled "An act providing for a comprehensive development of the park and playground system of the National Capital," approved June 6, 1924, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its amendments numbered 1 and 3.

That the House recede from its disagreement do the amendment of the Senate numbered 2, and agree to the same.

F. N. ZIHLMAN,

ERNEST W. GIBSON,

THOS. L. BLANTON,

Managers on the part of the House.

ARTHUR CAPPER,

W. L. JONES,

WILLIAM H. KING,

Managers on the part of the Senate.

STATEMENT OF THE MANAGERS ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

The managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 8830) amending the act entitled "An act providing for a comprehensive development of the park and playground system of the National Capital," approved June 6, 1924, submit the following detailed statement in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the conferees and recommended in the accompanying conference report:

Amendment No. 1: The bill, as it passed both the House and Senate, provided for the appointment by the President of the United States of four eminent citizens, well qualified and experienced in city planning, to serve without compensation as members of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, in addition to the officials who are also to serve on the commission. One of the four members thus appointed should be a bona fide resident of the District of Columbia, the bill provided as it passed the House. The Senate amended the bill so that two of the appointees should be from the District, to which amendment the House disagreed. The Senate has receded from its amendment, acknowledging that to require half the appointive personnel to be residents of the District of Columbia would greatly restrict and hamper the President at times in selecting the foremost city-planning experts. Furthermore, inasmuch as practically all of the other seven members of the commission live most of the time in the National Capital, it is apparent that the interests and well-being of the people of the District of Columbia will be adequately represented. The Senate recedes.

Amendment No. 2: The Senate struck from the House bill the provision "and it shall be the duty of each member of the commission to adhere in principle to the official plan of the commission," and, as amended by the Senate, the bill states:

It is the purpose of this act to obtain the maximum amount of cooperation and correlation of effort between the departments, bureaus, and commissions of the Federal and District Governments. To this end plans and records, or copies thereof, shall be made available to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission when requested.

It is realized that to bind the administrative officials who are members of the commission "to adhere in principle" to the commission's city plan is not only indefinite but might require such officials to violate their oath of office to administer their duties prescribed by Congress according to their own best judgment. It is felt that the complete execution of the city plan evolved by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission can best be effected by the wholehearted cooperation of the administrative officers who are members of it, and who, under the terms of the bill as amended by the Senate, are required to lay the plans of their own offices, affecting the District of Columbia, before the planning commission when so requested.

Any departure by such officers from the general plan of the commission can be adequately dealt with by pressure of public opinion and by act of Congress itself. With this in mind, the House recedes from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 2.

No. 3: The bill as it passed the House provided for the employment of technical experts by the commission "at per diem rates not in excess of those paid for similar services elsewhere and as may be fixed by the said commission" without regard to the salary classification act. The Senate struck out the words "per diem" but now recedes from such amendment, realizing that the per diem basis will tend to prevent permanent and unduly long continued employment of experts when their services may not longer be required. Such employment, in any event, will be limited by the amount of appropriations granted by Congress. Such experts as are required from time to time can best render their occasional service on a per diem basis, and accordingly the Senate recedes from its amendment numbered 3.

FREDERICK N. ZIHLMAN,
ERNEST W. GIBSON,
THOMAS L. BLANTON,
Managers on the Part of the House.



