

This proposal would also include claims for property losses principally in the Dodecanese Islands which were under the jurisdiction of Italy until the end of the war but which were then ceded to Greece. Under the peace treaty such claims were supposed to have been covered. Italy did not compensate for these claims, and the Commission, in its earlier Italian program, determined that they were peace treaty claims and denied them.

It is now proposed to utilize the balance in the Italian claims fund to provide some measure of compensation for those persons for whom no other recourse is available.

It is contemplated that the Commission may receive as many as 500 claims in this category. Commission records reflect that there were 238 denials in this group of claims previously made. Provision is also made in the bill that any sums remaining in the Italian claims fund be transferred to the war claims fund.

For the reasons that I have set forth, it is urged that H.R. 9063 be enacted. It is necessary from an administrative standpoint to enable the Commission to complete its affairs in relation to the various programs to which reference has been made. At the same time, it is necessary and desirable to dispose of the balance remaining in the Italian claims fund.

I think it would be proper for me to add that none of these programs would involve any cost to the U.S. Government. All of the expenses are borne by the funds themselves.

Madam Chairman, that, I think, is about all I would like to state, because I think that the formal statement that I have presented is adequate in explaining the legislation. The Commission has also submitted a section-by-section analysis of the bill.

Thank you very much.

Mrs. KELLY. Thank you very much, Dr. Re. Without objection I am going to place your complete statement in the record at this point. (There was no objection and the statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF DR. EDWARD D. RE, CHAIRMAN FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

Madam Chairman and members of the subcommittee, it is a pleasure and a privilege to appear before you today as Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission in support of H.R. 9063 entitled, "A Bill to provide for the timely determination of certain claims of American nationals, and for other purposes."

GENERAL SCOPE OF H.R. 9063

The bill, H.R. 9063, proposes amendments to Titles I and III of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, which directly affect the activities of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission.

This bill is similar to S. 1987 and H.R. 10712 in the 87th Congress, S. 947 in the 88th Congress, and S. 1935 in the 89th Congress, which were not enacted. It involves technicalities designed principally to put the business of the Commission in order and to provide good administrative procedures with respect to the new Bulgarian, Rumanian, Yugoslav and Italian programs.

The bill, if enacted, would provide further compensation for Americans who have received only partial payment on their awards, provides for the filing of new claims by citizens whose losses occurred after the execution of international agreement or enactment of enabling legislation, and provides compensation for a small group found to have been excluded from coverage under treaties and statutes.

These potential claimants have been constantly corresponding with the Commission during the past six or more years, individually and through their Senators and Congressmen, urging that the executive, as well as the legislative, branch support enactment of legislation included in H.R. 9063.