

Commission cannot proceed with the Bulgarian, Italian and Rumanian programs unless the items pertaining to them are enacted. The Governments of Bulgaria and Rumania have completed their payment commitments under the respective agreements. The Government of Yugoslavia has thus far made two payments of \$700,000 each on the scheduled date of payment. Three more payments are due. The residual amount in the Italian Claims Fund is already available for distribution to eligible claimants pending enactment of the bill.

For the foregoing reasons the Commission urges early and favorable action on H.R. 9063.

Mrs. KELLY. My first question relates to the provision of H.R. 9063 dealing with legal fees. In this proposal, you are simply ratifying the procedures that you have been following up until now. Is that correct?

Mr. RE. That is correct. There is nothing new in what is being recommended today.

Mrs. KELLY. Do you really need this legislation in order to transfer the money which our Government has received or will receive from Rumania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia into those respective claims funds?

Mr. RE. Yes, we do.

Mrs. KELLY. Why isn't this additional money being given to claimants who did not receive 100 percent payment on their awards under the earlier claims programs?

Mr. RE. The purpose of the legislation is to permit us to deposit this money into the new claims funds and to take care of claims that arose since the date of the program that was administered by the Commission previously.

In other words, these would be for claims that arose subsequent to the prior program.

Mrs. KELLY. I want you to enlarge upon that in order to make your position very, very clear.

Why must we accept a new class of claimants, those whose claims have arisen since 1955? I am still directing my question to the Rumanian, Bulgarian, and Yugoslav claims programs.

Mr. RE. The simple answer to that, Madam Chairman, is that this is part of the agreement. This is how we obtained the additional funds from these countries.

Mrs. KELLY. Now insofar as the Italian program is concerned, is there any objection on your part to the transfer of the \$1 million remaining in the Italian claims fund to the war claims fund?

Mr. RE. The proposal is that whatever moneys may remain, after the disposition of the claims that will be adjudicated pursuant to this morning's proposal, will go into the war claims fund. We believe that this is a worthy class of claimants that ought to be compensated first from this particular fund.

Mrs. KELLY. You anticipate that there will be money left over?

Mr. RE. Yes, I think so.

Mrs. KELLY. And you anticipate, then, that the new claimants will also receive 100 percent on the dollar as did the earlier Italian claimants? You are sure of that?

Mr. RE. If there is to be anything left over, that means that of necessity this present group will have received 100 cents on the dollar.

The reason this problem arises is because there was no requirement in the Lombardo agreement that any unexpended sum would revert