

Mrs. KELLY. Then as this money comes in, you would plan to pay those claimants who received awards. Is that correct?

Mr. RE. Well, let me put it this way: Those funds are really distributed by the Treasury Department pursuant to the priority of payments set forth in the International Claims Settlement Act.

Our task with respect to the Polish program is over. We have adjudicated approximately 11,000 claims. Total awards exceeded \$100 million, and as I say, our adjudicatory function in the Polish program is over.

Mrs. KELLY. Well, who would have the authority, then, to distribute the money as it comes in?

Mr. RE. That is the responsibility of the Treasury Department, and they are doing that.

Mrs. KELLY. But they are going to give that money only to those claimants who already qualified?

Mr. RE. Oh, yes; absolutely.

Mrs. KELLY. Why are you cutting off those who could have qualified had they had additional time to establish their qualification?

Mr. RE. I don't know what you mean by "cutting off."

Mrs. KELLY. You say there were 11,000 original claimants. Of these, you made awards to about 6,000, did you not?

Mr. RE. Of those who originally filed? It is true that invariably the denial percentage is about half. In other words, you are absolutely right. Roughly half of them receive awards, and roughly half are denials. But this is something that applies in all of these claims programs.

Mrs. KELLY. Of the half whose claims were denied, how many of these would you guess could qualify if they had additional time to prove their cases? That is what I would like to know.

Mr. RE. Mrs. Kelly, that also raises a very serious question: A person who does not succeed in proving his claim will invariably say that if he had more time he might have obtained evidence.

This is not the proper way to run a commission such as ours, because it would mean that we would never terminate our programs. This would not be in the public interest.

An important aspect of the Commission, and in this I think that I would be justified in making what might be called a self-serving statement, is that we have never asked for an extension of time for any of our programs.

The Congress tells us to start a program at a given date, and we are told when to terminate that program. This is precisely what we have done in all cases.

In other words, from the filing date to the date of termination all claimants have the same opportunity.

It is true that some claims are denied because of failure of proof. We do the best we can in assisting claimants in obtaining evidence, but they must bear the burden of proof.

Mrs. KELLY. The same happened, then, in the case of claimants against other countries?

Mr. RE. Absolutely, Madam Chairman.

Mrs. KELLY. The other country programs were closed off.

Mr. RE. This is true of Czechoslovakia and all the other countries. I have no doubt that some claims were denied because of the claimants' inability to obtain evidence.