

Mrs. KELLY. I would like to clarify this point. Last year, we received in our committee a bill already passed by the Senate. It was that bill that we took up, and it contained some amendments added in the Senate. Those amendments had been passed and accepted by the Senate prior to the closing of the Polish claims program.

Mr. SELDEN. Has your Commission always favored the inclusion of the Italian claims in this legislation?

Mr. RE. No.

Mr. SELDEN. Why have you changed your position?

Mr. RE. We feel that the basic policy position on the inclusion of the late filers was really made by the Congress when title III was passed on August 8, 1958. It was at that time that the Congress, as a matter of legislative policy, amended the law to permit a new category to come in because it was then apparent that the fund would have been greater than needed.

So, frankly, I don't believe that we are urging something new today. All we are doing is really adhering to the policy that was already established by the Congress in 1958.

Mr. SELDEN. Haven't you been before this committee prior to this time urging the extension of the Italian claims?

Mr. RE. No, sir. This is the first time that we are urging that this be done.

Mr. SELDEN. That is not my recollection.

Mr. RE. It is true that a bill had been submitted at one time that had recommended that the remaining funds go into the War Claims Fund. That is true.

Mr. SELDEN. You had recommended that? Is that correct?

Mr. RE. The Commission did.

Mr. SELDEN. What year was that?

Mr. RE. In the 87th and 88th Congresses.

Mr. SELDEN. Was that prior to 1958?

Mr. RE. No, it was after.

Mr. SELDEN. Then your position has changed?

Mr. RE. Yes, it has.

Mr. SELDEN. Then why has it changed?

Mr. RE. Because we believe that the position we are urging today is more consistent with the policy of the Congress enunciated in the 1958 legislation.

Mr. SELDEN. Yes, but you have been before this committee since 1958 and urged another approach. Why has there been a reversal of your position?

Mr. RE. Congressman Selden, I think there are benefits which result from reflection and thought. We really believe that what we are urging today is a more equitable solution pertaining to the distribution of these funds.

Mr. SELDEN. Then you are saying that you have changed your position since the last bill that was introduced in connection with the Italian claims.

Mr. RE. That's correct.

Mr. SELDEN. Since 1958 you have had two different positions. Am I correct?

Mr. RE. That is correct.

Mr. SELDEN. Thank you, sir.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Derwinski, do you wish to question at this time?

Mr. DERWINSKI. No. I yield to Mr. Taft.