

Mr. TAFT. Madam Chairman, I would like to yield at this time and perhaps come back later.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Monagan?

Mr. MONAGAN. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

This is complicated legislation, and I have not been able to get into it to the degree that we were involved in it last year, so I hope you will bear that in mind as I ask these questions.

We got a State Department position on this last year. Do we have one this year?

Mrs. KELLY. I would assume that the State Department's position is the same as the executive branch position on this bill.

Mr. MONAGAN. I don't know whether it is or not.

Mr. RE. That is correct.

Mrs. KELLY. If I remember correctly, last year, and I will have to look up the testimony on this, you were not adamant in desiring the reopening of the Italian claims program.

You left that matter to us for our decision.

Is that correct, that in the testimony before us, you left it with the Congress to decide whether we should reopen that program?

Mr. RE. The matter is entirely one of congressional policy.

Mrs. KELLY. But in this bill, this is the State Department's policy?

Mr. RE. This is an executive branch bill.

Mr. MONAGAN. We can do whatever we want with it, but I am asking whether we have been furnished with a position paper by the State Department on this bill. Apparently we don't have any.

Mrs. KELLY. Do you wish us to request it, then, Mr. Monagan?

Mr. MONAGAN. It should be in the record here some place if we are going to discuss it at this time.

(The information follows:)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, D.C., June 27, 1967.

HON. THOMAS E. MORGAN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I refer to your letter of May 29, 1967, requesting the views of the Department of State on H.R. 9063, "To amend the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, to provide for the timely determination of certain claims of American nationals, and for other purposes."

H.R. 9063 would provide for the disposition of funds received under the claims settlement agreements concluded with the Governments of Bulgaria and Romania. It further provides for the determination of claims against Bulgaria and Romania for the taking of property between August 9, 1955 and the effective date of the respective claims agreements with those countries. The bill also permits the reopening of the Italian claims program in order to pay certain claims not previously consideration compensable. And finally, the proposed legislation would provide for certain administrative changes to enable the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission to proceed in an orderly administration of its program.

Except for the omission of certain provisions relating to the Polish and Yugoslav claims programs of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission which are no longer required, the bill conforms to the proposal which the Commission submitted to the 89th Congress. The Department of State accordingly favors the proposed legislation.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that from the standpoint of the Administration's program there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM B. MACOMBER, JR.,
Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations.