

Mr. RE. Congressman Taft, these are all matters of policy. I fully appreciate the question and the view.

Mr. MONAGAN. Have you any estimate of what the amount of the claims of the Dodecanese people would be?

Mr. McGUIRE. The amount of the claims? No.

Mr. RE. We know the number. There are roughly 238—somewhat over 200 claims.

Mr. MONAGAN. Are those for property damage?

Mr. RE. Yes, sir.

Mr. MONAGAN. There is no way on the basis of your experience in other cases that you could estimate?

Mr. RE. We only know claimed amounts, and claimed amounts are most unreliable.

Mr. MONAGAN. I understand that claim amounts would be high, but I mean on the basis of what your adjudications have been, could you arrive at an estimate of award amounts?

Mr. RE. No, I am afraid that would be a meaningful guess, but I would be happy to supply more information for the record.

(The information concerning claims arising in the Dodecanese Islands follows:)

1. It has been estimated that claims in this category will not exceed 500 in number. The Commission knows of 238 claims which have been denied in prior programs on the ground of ineligibility.

2. The claimed amount in the claims denied was \$5,805,976. However, it has been the Commission's experience that such assertions are tremendously inflated.

3. It is believed that the majority of these persons were United States nationals on September 3, 1943, the date of Italian capitulation. Generally, they acquired citizenship shortly after World War I.

Mr. MONAGAN. The war claims fund is broke, in essence, is it not? Do you know that?

Mr. RE. Oh, no; the war claims fund will be somewhat in excess of \$250 million, and from that fund will be paid the awards on our war claims program that terminated on May 17 of this year.

Mr. MONAGAN. Are there sufficient funds to cover the claims?

Mr. RE. No. Our awards were closer to \$340 million and the fund, as I have indicated, is perhaps in excess of \$250 million.

Mr. MONAGAN. When I used the word "broke," I perhaps suggested that there were no funds in it.

What I meant to suggest is that there are not sufficient funds in it—

Mr. RE. Not for payments of 100 cents on the dollar.

Mr. MONAGAN (continuing). To pay the claims, and if this money were put in, it would increase the percentage.

Mr. RE. It would increase the fund by \$1,088,000.

We are back to the policy question, as to who should have a claim to this fund, considering its source. The source happens to be the Lombardo Agreement with Italy, which had in mind claims originating against Italy for which the treaty of peace with Italy made no provision. So you see, upon reflection, it doesn't seem conscionable to say, "Put it into some other fund."

We have the power to do that, and the Congress may do so, of course, in its wisdom.

Mr. MONAGAN. What power do we have—

Mr. RE. We could do anything we want with the money because the treaty with Italy does not have a reverter clause.