

An amendment was passed by Congress extending this privilege to such people who had previously filed claims, but did not extend it to those who had not filed claims under the original act. I favor this legislation, but I would like to suggest one other group who I believe are at least as much entitled to be considered as the group of late nationals who suffered property damage. I refer to people who were native born citizens and who suffered personal injury claims during the war with Italy.

In 1955 at the request of Congressman Vorys, who was then with the committee, I testified in behalf of this group of people, and I was asked by Mr. Fulton to submit the form of a statement to be incorporated into the committee report, to make sure that personal injury claims would be paid.

I did. A specific statement was contained in the report of the committee, and also of the Senate committee, which indicated that personal injury claims should be paid.

Thereafter these people filed claims, and the then Commission, which is not the present existing Commission, for some reason decided that claims should be paid for personal injury only up to 1943, at which time there was an armistice in southern Italy. Meanwhile, the fighting in northern Italy continued unabated by the Italian Fascist forces with the assistance of the Germans.

In some cases the Commission paid for personal injuries after 1943, and in some cases did not pay, entirely inconsistently. There was no reason given as to why they discriminated in this way.

Thereafter, Senator Young of Ohio, when his attention was called to this discrepancy by the press, became interested in the matter, and submitted a statement for the Congressional Record last year in which he pointed out he was with the Army in Italy in military government, that he had been personally aware of the struggle in northern Italy after 1943, and thought this was entirely unrealistic, to say the war was over in 1943 when a great portion of the hard fighting in Italy occurred thereafter, in the mountains and northern areas of Italy.

I would propose, in supplementing the proposal that was made by the administration, that just a few words be added, namely—at the top of page 6 of the bill as it has been printed, after the word “persons” in the second line, I would say that the words “who filed claims for property damage and” should be inserted.

The effect of that is that the only people who should not be foreclosed from filing claims other than those who were late nationals are those who filed for personal injuries. In other words, permission should be given to the present Commission to reconsider these personal injury claims of native born citizens who have not been compensated.

I think this is entirely consistent with the legislation and the legislative history, and it seems to me the failure to pay these claims was simply contrary to the intent of Congress. There is money to pay them. The money doesn't have to come from the Treasury. There is over \$1 million in Italian funds that is provided for this purpose.

As I understand, the claims which were contemplated by the administration measure would not anywhere near take up this \$1,088,000. I feel that before this money, the balance of it, is transferred to the Treasury for general use, we have an obligation, not only to our citizens, but to Italy under the arrangement whereby they deposited \$5 million here to be used for the purpose of paying American claims