

The minor administrative inconvenience embodied in establishing a 9-month period to consider additional evidence on Polish claims should be disregarded to promote equity among claimants.

I respectfully submit this brief which I have just read to you, and want to thank you for this opportunity this afternoon.

I might add that you received the blessings unofficially, your committee, last night when I received a call late in the evening from a woman in my community who is an American citizen and filed her claims. She is a widow with three children in dire need. She said that she got back an answer from Washington or from the Commission that further claims would be recognized with this extension, of course; and she is only one of many. No doubt with this extension she would be on record of filing this claim.

Thank you, sir.

Mr. MONAGAN. Thank you, Mr. Jacobs.

We are not used to receiving blessings. Usually what we receive is in another category. This, therefore, is a welcome experience.

As I understand the text of this amendment, since the Polish program was terminated on March 31, 1966, this would extend it to March 31, 1968. It does not permit the filing of any new claims?

Mr. JACOBS. That is correct.

Mr. MONAGAN. It simply would mean that any claims which previously had been timely filed could be prosecuted, providing there were new evidence or something of that sort?

Mr. JACOBS. As I stated in this particular case of this woman, she had filed but evidently 2 or 3 days beyond the March 3, 1966, date.

Mr. MONAGAN. Under your amendment she couldn't come in.

Mr. JACOBS. She had already filed.

We are asking for an extension of those who had filed claims, American citizens only, who had filed claims 2 or 3 days after the expiration of—

Mr. MONAGAN. That is the point I want to make clear. I understood from what you said that this would not permit the filing of new claims. The way the language is, the Commission shall "complete its affairs" in connection with the settlement of United States-Polish claims, should "complete its affairs" not later than March 31, 1968.

That doesn't specifically say that any new claims could be filed. It is one consideration if you are simply permitting existing claims to be prosecuted to effect, so to speak. It is another thing if you are permitting new claims to be filed.

Mr. JACOBS. The problem had been with a lot of these people that they weren't aware that it was expiring, that the final date was March 31, 1966.

Mr. MONAGAN. Whatever the problem was, what I want to know is what in your contention this covers. You indicate that claims which have not previously been filed could now be filed?

Mr. JACOBS. Until March 31, 1968.

Mr. MONAGAN. It is opening it up for the filing of claims as well as for the prosecution of existing claims?

Mr. JACOBS. I wouldn't want to hamper, of course, in this proposed amendment to H.R. 9063, I wouldn't want to hamper in any way those who may have filed up to March 31, 1966, and had not been able to get the necessary evidence as required.