

Mr. MONAGAN. Maybe we should accept the statement for the record if he is going to summarize it.

Mr. KELLY. He is going to submit it.

You are going to summarize it now?

Mr. PANZER. Yes, briefly:

(The statement is as follows:)

STATEMENT OF IRVING R. M. PANZER, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Madam Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you this afternoon on H.R. 9063. I will be brief. My interest is limited to the Rumanian sections of the bill, primarily section 6 on page 4. Together with this section must be read section 8, on page 5, also dealing with Rumania, and sections 11 and 12 on pages 8-9. I am restricting my remarks to those sections.

I am an attorney in private practice in Washington, D.C., and I represent persons who hold awards under the old Rumanian Claims Program which began in 1955 and ended in 1959. The money that was used to pay awards under that program had been obtained from the seizure, by our Government, of certain Rumanian assets here that were blocked at the outbreak of World War II. This money was not sufficient to pay the awards in full—in fact, only about 33½% has been paid on the principal.

In 1960 the Rumanian Government concluded an Agreement with the United States under which the Rumanians were to pay to the United States the sum of \$2,500,000.00 in five equal installments beginning in 1960. This was done, and the full \$2,500,000.00 has been sitting in the U.S. Treasury since 1964. All of this money was to be paid out to (1) all persons holding awards under the old Rumanian Claims Program, as additional compensation on those awards, and (2) any new claimants who may receive awards for nationalization of their property by Rumania during the period 1955-1960. It is not believed that there are many, if any, of this second category, and so essentially the recipients of this \$2,500,000.00 are the old awardholders, such as my clients. This money, then has no other purpose than to be distributed to those people as a further payment to them.

Seven years have passed since the Rumanians began to pay in the \$2,500,000.00, and three years have passed since all of that amount was fully paid in, yet not a cent has been paid out to those who are waiting for their money. In fact, not a single step has been taken along that road. Although the \$2,500,000.00 is indeed sitting in the Treasury, it appears that a technical amendment is thought to be necessary in order to transfer that money from the General Fund to the Rumanian Claims Fund. That is the sole purpose of section 6 of H.R. 9063, which deals also with Bulgaria. Also, it seems that an authorization is necessary in order to enable the Commission to hear and decide the claims of persons whose property may have been taken during the 1955-1960 period. That is the sole purpose of section 8 of the bill. Sections 11 and 12 of the bill then provide some administrative machinery. In other words, what we have here is mere implementation of the distribution of the money now sitting in the Treasury.

My people, and many others like them, have been waiting years for their money. Some of these awardholders have died while waiting. There is no substantive reason why this single piece of legislation could not have been passed years ago, even as far back as 1960, and the money could all have been paid out in 1964, when the last Rumanian payment was made. It is wrong; it is unfair; it is shocking; it is a disgrace.

It has been the misfortune of this simple implementing piece of legislation that it has never come up to Congress alone, on its own merits. It has always come up as part of an omnibus bill, like H.R. 9063 which is before you today—a bill which gathered together a number of items pertaining to the work of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission. From a practical legislative point of view, that has certainly seemed to be a wise way to go at it, rather than submit separate bills on each of a number of minor items. But the Rumanian provisions, which I believe to be noncontroversial, have suffered from being lumped together with controversial items, like last year's Polish provision, and year after year they have gone down the drain because some other portion of the entire omnibus bill had opposition. It is a kind of death by contamination.

Now here we are again as part of an omnibus bill. I urge the passage of the entire bill as speedily as possible. If, however, the passage of the entire bill is doubtful, then I urge that the Rumanian (and Bulgarian) provisions be taken out and made