

a separate bill, so that for once, in all the years since 1960, these provisions can be heard on their own merits.

Thank you.

Mr. PANZER. My interest is limited solely to those provisions dealing with the Rumanian fund.

I am an attorney in private practice. I represent people who hold awards under the old Rumanian claims program. The money that was used to pay those old awards, as you recall, was money from seized Rumanian assets years ago. That money has gone only about one-third of the way on the principal. The Commission says 35 percent.

In 1960 the Rumanians came along and made a new agreement under which they gave additional money, \$2,500,000. It is sitting in the Treasury and has been sitting there for years. That money is for two purposes. One is to pay the old awardholders like my clients; the second is to pay any new claimants whose claims may have arisen between 1955 and 1960. It is not really thought that there are many, if indeed there are any, of the second class. Therefore it is essentially additional compensation for the first class. That is the only purpose of this money—to be distributed to these old awardholders.

It has been 7 years since the Rumanians began to pay this money, 3 years since they completed the payments, and yet not a cent has been paid out, not a step has been taken for what is said to be a mechanical reason. Why can't they pay the money out? They said that it is sitting in the general fund of the Treasury and it takes an implementing piece of legislation to put it into the Rumanian fund. All right. I will go along with that.

They also say that to adjudicate these new claims, if there are any, takes another provision. I will go along with that.

The simplest kind of legislation. Why hasn't this legislation, which is simple, which is uncontroversial, which nobody has ever opposed, why hasn't it ever been passed? People have died waiting for this money, a good many of them.

The reason it has never been passed is that it has always come up here as it is now as part of an omnibus bill. Nobody has ever objected to these provisions but always somebody seems to object to something else. We have suffered a kind of death by contamination every year.

I understand the interest of the administration in packaging up in a single omnibus bill a number of what they consider minor items. That is sound administrative practice. It was, until some of us began to be hurt by being included in an omnibus bill.

At this time my position is this—if this present bill which I support fully is going to go through, if there is no trouble, then I do support the bill, I do urge its passage. If, however, there is any trouble on some other provision of this bill, if this is going to hurt our people again for no reason that concerns them, if these rather old people who are dying, waiting for the money, which is theirs and theirs alone, simply awaiting distribution, if they are going to be hurt by something else, then I say it is time to take these Rumanian provisions out of an omnibus approach, put them into a little piece of legislation all by itself, let it come up here on its own merits and let the committee consider it.

I support the bill as it stands because everything in it is all right with me. If there is any trouble with the bill I urge the subcommittee to draft up a separate bill limited to the Rumanian considerations and pass that as speedily as possible.