

Dr. NEUBERGER. Madam Chairman and members of the committee, I wish to add a few words to the statement you just heard from Mr. DePolo concerning the provision referring to the Italian claims fund in the present bill, H.R. 9063. I have been authorized to present before this honorable subcommittee the views of the National Conference for Equality Under Claims Legislation, which is a large organization comprising many nationwide organizations, mostly minority groups with millions of members who are trying to combat the inequities in claims legislation.

The question of equality of American citizens in claims legislation has been violated by the earlier decision to turn over the remaining balance of the Italian claims fund to the Treasury Department, instead of distributing it to the claimants who were entitled to get compensation out of these funds by the express provision of Public Law 604 of the 85th Congress.

According to the Lombardo agreement, by which the Italian claims fund was established, it was provided that the money be used " * * * in application to the claims of U.S. nationals arising out of the war with Italy and not otherwise provided for." It is clear that these funds should be used solely for the satisfaction of claims of U.S. citizens against Italy.

There is no use in giving the residual balance of the Italian claims fund, which is over \$1 million, to the war claims fund which has enough money and which is already being distributed; so that this \$1 million will not be of much use to the war claims fund, whereas, for the claimants who are poor working people, the compensation which they might receive from this fund would mean everything.

Mrs. KELLY. If I understand you correctly, you are in complete agreement with the bill as it stands.

Dr. NEUBERGER. Yes. But we were prompted to testify today and present our views because, in the last session of this honorable subcommittee, this provision concerning distribution of the Italian war claims fund was deleted, and all the claimants who turned to us for help were worried that it might happen again.

I therefore appeal to you to leave this provision in the present bill as it is. I wish to add that these people were very much embittered also when they learned that two private bills were passed in the last session of the Senate to satisfy two large claimants; and I feel that, while the large claimants will be satisfied, the small claimants, like Mr. DePolo and others, would get nothing.

The aforesaid facts are the essence of what I wanted to present today.

In conclusion, I wish to say only that I submitted an amendment with my statement in order to preserve the principle that the Italian claims fund should be used for compensation of claimants only, and if any balance should still remain, it should be distributed among claimants who became citizens after August 9, 1955.

Mrs. KELLY. Any questions?

Mr. MONAGAN. No.

Mrs. KELLY. I appreciate your appearance so much. Your statement will be placed in the record in full.

(The prepared statement of Dr. Neuberger is as follows:)

Madam Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Paul Neuberger and I am a member of the New York Bar with offices in New York City, specializing in international private law.