

taken place promptly after that date. My only comment at the present time is that this legislation, insofar as it relates to the Rumanian and obviously also the Bulgarian Claims Programs, although I have no personal interest in their sections, is very long overdue. There can be absolutely no objection to this particular provision of it and, like Mr. Panzer, I would support the bill in its entirety unless there is objection to it on other collateral clauses.

As to the Rumanian claims, there has been no objection to these provisions. I would urge that most immediate action be taken to affect distribution of those funds.

Thank you.

Mrs. KELLY. Your statement may be made a part of the record, without objection. There was no objection.

(The prepared statement of Mr. Rubin is as follows:)

TESTIMONY OF SEYMOUR J. RUBIN

My name is Seymour J. Rubin. I am an attorney admitted to practice in the State of Illinois and the District of Columbia. My present offices are in the Woodward Building, Washington, 5, D.C.

I appear on behalf of a number of American nationals who hold awards under Title 3 of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended.

I have had considerable experience in the field of international claims. Until 1948, I was Assistant Legal Adviser for Economic Affairs in the Department of State. I am the author of several articles dealing with the subject of nationalization and compensation, including an article in the November 1954 issue of the American Bar Association Journal, which urged the enactment of legislation of the sort which subsequently became Title 3 of the Act.

On August 9, 1966, I appeared before this honorable sub-committee to testify in favor of certain provisions of S. 1935, 89th Congress, 2d Session.

As I stated in connection with S. 1935, the taking of action to make possible distribution of the funds which are now available to Rumanian and Bulgarian claimants is long overdue.

I represent a number of American citizens, claimants under the Rumanian claims program, whose claims have been long since adjudicated and approved by the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission.

After taking into account the small number of additional claims which will have to be adjudicated pursuant to the terms of the Rumanian/American Agreement of March, 1960, these claimants are entitled to a pro rata distribution of the funds paid into the Treasury of the United States by Rumania, which funds were paid in for the specific purpose of making such additional payments. Payments by the Government of Rumania were completed on July 1, 1964. The lack of legislative authority since that date has prevented distribution of funds to which these persons, and these persons alone, are clearly entitled. Had legislation been enacted after the Rumanian/American Agreement of 1960, authorizing adjudication of the new claims covered by the Rumanian/American Agreement, that step could long ago have been completed, and the funds could well have been distributed shortly after the completion of Rumanian payments in July, 1964.

It is beyond any controversy that the funds in question must be distributed in the manner set out in H.R. 9063. The delay which I have mentioned has been, and continues to be, extremely unfortunate. All of the claimants whom I have represented in the proceedings before the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission are individuals. All of them suffered from expropriation of their property in Rumania. The majority of them hold relatively small awards, and the pro rata payment of these awards is, in most cases, quite important in proportion to their total earnings or capital. In several cases, the individual claimants have died since the inception of the claims program, and widows or children would be the beneficiaries of the payments for which they have, for so long, been waiting.

It is, in my view, not possible to make any argument against the remedial legislation proposed in H.R. 9063. The only valid comment which can be made with respect to it is that it should long ago have been enacted. It is my hope that it will be promptly enacted, and that its enactment will be followed by speedy action on the part of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission to complete the claims program.